Thursday, October 9, 2025 No 279 ₹7

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NEW STRUCTURE: Officials & urban planners meet to discuss reforms and resource-sharing strategies

GBA's ward math goes cosmic; DKS fixes it at 369

Done in accordance with 'Navagraha' (nine planets) alignment

BENGALURU, DHNS

The total number of wards across five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is likely to be 369, one more than the 368 already notified.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said there is a plan to add one more ward, as the window to raise objections remains open.

Number nine is considered auspicious, aligning with 'Navagraha' (nine planets). The city earlier had 198 wards, later increased to 243 and then revised to 225 — all of which totals nine when the digits are added.

DK SHIVAKUMAR, Deputy Chief Minister

"In places like Japan and London, tunnel roads were built long ago. We are building them now to ease congestion. While public transport is important, the reality is that most people prefer private vehicles. As vehicle numbers rise, we cannot expand the roads due to lack of space – tunnels and flyovers are the solution.

At an interaction hosted by the Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC) at Mount Carmel College, Shivakumar said, "There will be 369 wards."

He added that 50% of the tickets in the upcoming civic elections would be reserved for women.

The deputy chief minister also noted that urbanisation has posed challenges for every growing city.

"Bengaluru had 198 wards managed by one commissioner. The city's population will touch two crore in the next 10 to 15 years. We have created five corporations to decentralise administration," he said. Shivakumar added that the long-term effects of initiatives taken up during the Congress government would be visible for years to come.

Other key projects

Outlining key projects, he mentioned the 104-km Bangalore Business Corridor, a 40-km tunnel road, double-decker flyovers, elevated corridors, and new roads along buffer zones proposed during his earlier tenure as Bengaluru Development Minister.

Nodal agencies decode governance model

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Representatives from Bengaluru's civic agencies gathered on Wednesday to understand the working module of the newly formed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

B.PAC organised the event, 'GBA: The Pathway to Better Governance of Namma Bengaluru', at Mount Carmel College.

Maheshwar Rao

Srinivas Alavilli, fellow, WRI India, opened with an explainer on GBA. A panel discussion on 'Context of GBA' followed, featuring Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad and V Ravichandar, member of the Brand Bengaluru Committee.

A larger panel discussion, 'Building Synergy for Better Governance', featured GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited Managing Director Ravishankar J, urban expert and Director of B.SMILE RK Mishra, Chief Traffic Manager (Operations) of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation GT Prabhakar Reddy, advocate and parliamentary expert Harish N, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited CEO Karee Gowda, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic West) Anoop A Shetty, Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra KV, and architect and urban designer Naresh Narasimhan.

Maheshwar Rao spoke about funding, coordination and accountability under the new governing body.

"In order to effectively govern a city, you need to look into how people live and work. The GBA is divided into five corporations, and a certain level of coordination and a set of mechanisms are required to provide funding to these corporations, both of which will be done by the GBA. This will ensure that all corporations work effectively, streamlining the decision-making process. This gives one an idea of identifying areas where one could generate more resources and unlock potential which had not been tapped into earlier," he said.

The institutionalised mechanism will improve efficiency in ground-level operations, Rao added.

"Under this institutionalised mechanism, I can have discussions with all the departments that work in and around Bengaluru and then report it to the executive committee, which looks after two things — how do you look at the action plans made by each agency, and how do you ensure that the work of one agency does not impinge on the work of another agency," he said.

Want to discard old cots, sofas? Use new BSWML app from Oct 26

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) will launch a mobile application to facilitate easy collection of 'unwanted waste' from households.

BSWML CEO Karee Gowda announced the initiative during a B.PAC event on Greater Bengaluru Authority, stating the launch is likely on October 26.

Citizens will be able to approach authorities directly for collection of unwanted materials, including used furniture, textiles, books, and construction debris.

In the last week, BSWML collected over 1,000 beds, cots and sofas lying haphazardly across Bengaluru's roads.

"There is waste like this that people don't know how or where to discard. This new app will solve this problem. We will collect these items once a week, mostly on Sundays. Out of these items, whatever can be recycled, will be recycled," he said.

Gowda met various organisations engaged in recycling waste to discuss the initiative. He also urged the public to cooperate with the waste collectors in disposing of trash rather than throwing it around.

Kasa Kiosks

The BSWML is also developing an integrated solid waste management solution and setting up 70 'Kasa Kiosks' and manned garbage segregation bins across the city in the next two months. These will be located at points where garbage collection is poor.

"To make Bengaluru a garbage-free city, public effort in waste segregation and disposal is must. Just two to three hours after the garbage is collected in the morning, a few residents are seen throwing rubbish on the side of the road. This needs to stop," he added.

Metro hike, bad roads, etc

During the question-and-answer session, students raised concerns over the recent metro fare hike, saying it had become unaffordable for many.

Others complained that the waiting time on the Yellow Line stretches up to 30 minutes.

A few participants also raised traffic issues across the city.

One attendee questioned why engineers and contractors face no action for poor roadwork while motorists are quickly fined for traffic violations.

Shivakumar, however, did not respond to this query.

DyCM to visit Lalbagh over tunnel road concerns

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said he would visit the Lalbagh Botanical Garden next week to study the alignment of the proposed 16-km twin tunnel road between Central Silk Board and Hebbal.

He made the announcement following concerns from citizen groups that the project could cause extensive damage to the historic garden.

Earlier this week, Citizens for Citizens, a civic group, had pointed out that the project requires about six acres of land within the botanical garden, one of Bengaluru's largest lung spaces comprising a lake and ancient rock formations.

"Trees will be cut and Lalbagh's soil, water, air, lake and rock will all bear the brunt," *DH* had reported on October 7, citing the group's concerns.

Responding to these statements, Shivakumar said the tunnel road had been conceptualised for the development of Bengaluru.

"There is no question of causing any harm to Lalbagh, which is a historic park. I am aware of its significance. I will visit the garden on Monday along with officials," he said.

New BMTC MD takes charge

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sivakumar KB, a 2010-batch IAS officer, took charge as the new managing director of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) on Wednesday.

Sivakumar

Student faces action for wearing controversial T-shirt

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Jnanabharathi police in southwest Bengaluru have registered a case against a college student for wearing a T-shirt with the flag of Azad Kashmir.

The suo motu case was registered after a video went viral showing 20-year-old Inayath Ameen, originally from Kashmir, riding pillion with the Azad Kashmir flag printed on his T-shirt, the FIR stated.

The video, posted on the Instagram 'account skecher_op', was flagged by the social media monitoring wing of the Jnanabharathi police around 10 am on September 23.

Based on the two-wheeler's registration number seen in the video, the police traced Ameen, a second-year BE (Computer Science) student at a reputed city college.

He has been booked under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, and doing acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony).

"He has been issued a notice of appearance. Further investigation is continuing," a police officer said.

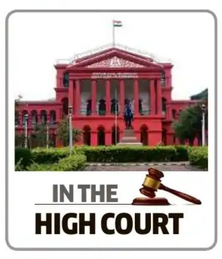
A screengrab of the video that was shared widely on social media.

Relief for BBMP engineer; HC quashes Upa Lokayukta enquiry report

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed the Upa Lokayukta enquiry report and the punishment of withholding four increments with cumulative effect against an engineer with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for dereliction of duty.

A division bench comprising Justice DK Singh and Justice Venkatesh Naik allowed the petition filed by TC Geetha, who was Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) with the BBMP in 2014, challenging the proceedings initiated against her for not carrying out the demolition of an unauthorised construction despite an order for demolition.



The petitioner was serving as AEE at Maruthi Seva Nagar when she received a complaint from Susheelamma, alleging that her brother Chandrashekar had carried out an unauthorised construction at a property situated on Sathyamurthy Road at Lingarajapuram in Kammanahalli. The petition stated that the siblings were involved in civil disputes and that Susheelamma had alleged her brother put up the construction without sanctioned building plans from the BBMP.

Subsequently, Susheelamma filed a complaint with the Lokayukta, alleging that even after passing a confirmation order under Section 321 of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (KMC) Act, no further action was taken by the BBMP.

Upon enquiry, the Upa Lokayukta charged Geetha and Vinay, who was the assistant engineer, with dereliction of duty and misconduct under Rule 3(1)(i) to (iii) of the KCS (Conduct) Rules. Based on the recommendation of the Upa Lokayukta, the state government withheld four increments.

It was argued on behalf of the petitioner that she had issued a notice to Chandrashekar and passed a confirmation order after hearing him. It was further submitted that she had prepared the cost estimate for the proposed demolition and submitted it for approval to her senior, the executive engineer. However, since the cost was not approved, the demolition could not be carried out.

On the other hand, special counsel appearing for the Upa Lokayukta submitted that it was the responsibility of the petitioner to ensure that no unauthorised construction was carried out in her jurisdiction. It was further contended that the demolition had not been executed despite the order, and therefore, the charge was proved based on the evidence presented.

The bench noted that the cost of demolition had to be approved by higher authorities and that nothing was placed on record to show that the executive engineer had approved the demolition cost.

"The petitioner was required to issue show-cause notice for the alleged unauthorised construction to the person (i.e) Chandrashekar, which she did and after eliciting a response from Chandrashekar, she passed the order for demolition of unauthorised construction. However, in absence of the approval of the costs of demolition, the demolition has not been carried out. Hence, we are of the considered view that the petitioner cannot be held guilty for dereliction of duty, or for not maintaining the absolute integrity and devotion to the duty. We, therefore, allow this writ petition and quash the enquiry report, recommendation made by the Lokayukta and the order dated 30-4-2019 passed by the state government withholding four increments of the petitioner with cumulative effect," the bench said.

Lazar Road sinks deeper into disrepair

Commuters struggle even as agencies pass the buck

SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

Once a peaceful, low-traffic stretch, Lazar Road has turned into a nightmare for residents and commuters after being dug up and left unrepaired.

A pothole or a death trap? Commuters at risk on Lazar Road. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) had laid new water and sewage pipelines, but left the road in disarray. Despite repeated complaints and promises of white-topping and new footpaths, no work has resumed.

Anush, an auto driver and local resident, said, "They dug it up a while ago and said it would be just a few days' work. It has been months now, and we can't even drive over 30 kmph because of how bad the road is."

The stretch connects Lingarajapuram, Pulakeshinagar, Commercial Street and Halasuru. The one-way road funnels into a narrow railway underpass and intersects two other routes, causing traffic snarls. With potholes, garbage and no proper footpaths, congestion worsens during peak hours, forcing pedestrians onto the road.

Venkatraja, another auto driver, described the road as "hell on earth". He said, "I cannot avoid this road because I live here, but if I go out during peak hours, I end up stuck for at least an hour."

Residents also complain of garbage piling up and spreading foul smell. "Many people throw garbage on the roadside, and now there are blackspots near the underpass. With the rains, it rots and creates a terrible stench," said a local resident.

Another resident from Lazar Layout added that some persons discard carcasses wrapped in plastic, which stray dogs drag across the road.

Leo, another local, said the BWSSB had "simply abandoned" the road.

In response, a BWSSB executive engineer said, "We dug up the road to lay water and sewage lines. After completion, we handed the project over to the BBMP almost two months ago. They were supposed to lay optic fibre cables and then do the white-topping."

He added that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) would now handle the white-topping and that delays may be due to the BBMP's dissolution. The GBA is currently focused on white-topping MM Road and will take up Lazar Road after that, pending permissions.

A senior Pulakeshinagar traffic officer said that despite diverting traffic towards Richards Park, congestion persists. "On the positive side, the usual bottleneck at the Lazar–Pottery–Hutchins Road intersection has eased as fewer vehicles come this way," the officer said.

Hampi-themed student art show opens today

BENGALURU, DHNS: 'Tactics for Wonder', an art exhibition by students of Vidyashilp University, will be held on Thursday from 6 pm to 9 pm at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road.

The show will be inaugurated by artist Archana Hande.

The artworks on display were developed as part of a workshop conducted by Hampi Art Labs, in collaboration with the JSW Foundation, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, and other partners.

Inspired by the architecture, history, and landscape of Hampi, the pieces reflect interdisciplinary collaboration between students of data science and design.

For more information, contact: 080-22261816.

PEOPLE POWER

Citizens, govt partner to smarten space under Iblur flyover

BENGALURU, DHNS

Once strewn with debris and garbage, the footpath and space beneath the flyover at Iblur Junction have undergone a transformation following a coordinated civic effort involving citizen volunteers, the East Corporation, Namma Metro and Bescom.

The initiative, part of an ongoing project titled 'Project Iblur Jn' and led by groups such as The Ugly Indians, aims to reclaim public spaces for pedestrian use.

On Sunday, more than 100 volunteers, along with about 25 staff members from the BBMP, BMRCL and Bescom, joined hands to clean and beautify the area under the Iblur flyover along the Outer Ring Road (ORR).

The drive included painting the flyover pillars with contemporary, Gen Z-inspired designs and improving footpaths from the Prestige Ferns Galaxy apartment complex to the junction. The clean-up culminated in a mass rangoli event on the pavement.

Arun Pai, coordinator of the Project Walkaluru collective, said the initiative was not "activism", but a sustained model of citizen partnership.

"This has been going on for 13 or 14 years. It is a coordinated effort to rescue a space that was being used for one purpose and bring it back for public use," he said, adding that the idea was to create a visible, positive change to deter negative behaviour and promote ownership.

Pai emphasised the importance of involving local residents directly in the effort.

"So, when people come to work, they take ownership. Then they will not allow anything wrong to happen. The important thing in what we do is to get local ownership — ownership in terms of their work — so that they feel responsible," he explained.

Prior to the recent clean-up, the space beneath the Iblur junction flyover had become a dumping ground for debris. DH PHOTO

Volunteers and civic staff cleaned and beautified the area under the flyover on Sunday, ending with a mass rangoli display. DH PHOTO

He noted that the project's broader goal was to ensure long-term maintenance and prevent the space from slipping back into neglect.

The Mahadevapura Task Force, another citizens' collective, worked alongside BMRCL and Bescom to remove construction debris and damaged infrastructure overnight.

The initiative has since drawn praise on social media, with many users lauding the transformation and suggesting similar drives in other neglected areas.

Naresh Bellezea of the Save Sarjapura Residents Forum said a wider plan had been drawn up by five resident organisations for the ORR and Sarjapur area, focusing on improving public mobility and non-motorised transport.

"It is part of a larger plan for us to make 100 kilometres of walkable footpaths across important junctions in the city," he told *DH*.

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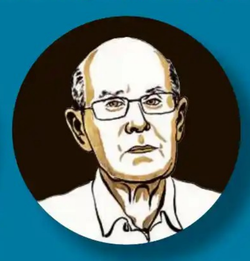
Nobel Prize Chemistry

Japan's Susumu Kitagawa, UK-born Richard Robson and American-Jordanian Omar Yaghi were honoured for their groundbreaking discoveries dating from the late 1980s to the early 2000s. Thanks to the trio's discoveries, chemists had been able to build tens of thousands of so called metal-organic frameworks. Some of these may contribute to solving some of humankind's greatest challenges.

Omar Yaghi (US) University of California, Berkeley



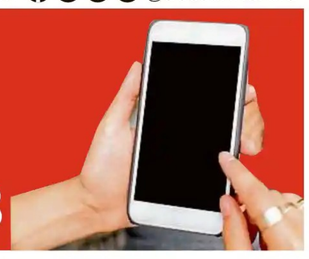
Richard Robson (UK) University of Melbourne

Susumu Kitagawa (Japan) Kyoto University, Japan

P.12

Business

Made-in-India 4G stack ready for export: PM P.13



Nation

Dulquer among actors raided by ED in Kerala, TN P.11

Nation

Zubeen Garg's cop cousin arrested P.10

State

BJP youth wing chief killed in Gangavati P.6

Quickly

7 killed in blast at cracker unit in Andhra

Seven workers were killed and three others critically injured in a powerful explosion at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh's Ambedkar Konaseema district on Wednesday. An error in mixing the materials is suspected to be the cause. Details on Page 11

Two para commandos go missing in J&K

Two para commandos of the Indian Army, who were part of a search-and-cordon operation, went missing on Tuesday night in the dense Gadool forests of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, triggering a massive search effort, official sources said. Details on Page 10

Google arm to invest $10 bn in Vizag data hub

The Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) on Wednesday approved Google's subsidiary Raiden Infotech's hyperscale data centre project in Visakhapatnam, representing an investment worth nearly $10 billion. Details on Page 13

Cough syrup deaths: TN factory sealed

MP police team in Chennai on hunt for company owner

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

With the death toll among children in Madhya Pradesh due to the contaminated cough syrup allegedly made by Sresan Pharmaceuticals in Chennai rising to 20, the Tamil Nadu government sealed the factory in Sunguvarchatiram on the Chennai-Bengaluru highway.

The State Drugs Control Department has also issued two show-cause notices to the manufacturer, directing it to recall all remaining stocks and provide complete distribution records within five days.

Five more children remain critical after consuming Coldrif -- the cough syrup found to be contaminated according to lab reports.

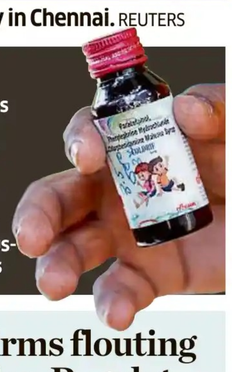
The incident prompted authorities to seal the factory which operated from a dingy building in Sunguvarchatiram on Tuesday evening.

The Tamil Nadu government took action on the same day the State Drugs Control Department issued notices to Dr G Ranganathan and K Maheswari, proprietor and analytical chemist of Sresan Pharmaceuticals, respectively.

The Sresan Pharmaceutical facility in Chennai. REUTERS

CRACKING DOWN

- Manufacturer told to recall all remaining stocks
- Company asked to provide complete distribution records in 5 days
- Notice to firm seeks details like quantity of the drug manufactured, distribution records
- In Telangana, govt urges public to stop using two cough syrups



The notices followed findings of about 350 violations at the pharmaceutical company, and a lab test revealing the syrup contained 48.6% diethylene glycol, an industrial chemical that can cause renal failure.

Sresan Pharmaceuticals holds a licence to manufacture the cough syrup until 2026.

"The sample has been declared as 'Not of Standard Quality' by the Government Analyst (Drugs), Drugs Testing Laboratory, because it was found to be adulterated with diethylene glycol," stated the notice signed by the Senior Drugs Inspector, Kanchipuram zone.

▸ Cough syrup, Page 6

Firms flouting rules: Regulator

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has alerted states that Indian drug makers are flouting rules as they neither test the ingredients in keeping with standards before using them to manufacture formulations nor check the finished products. The regulator did not name the firms. Details on Page 10

Come clean on not attacking Pak after 26/11, PM tells Congress

Cites remarks of Chidambaram on 'foreign pressure'

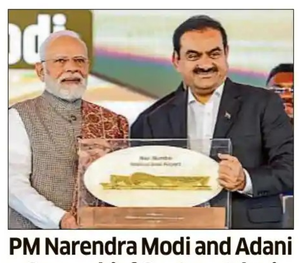
MRITYUNJAY BOSE
RAIGAD, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lashed out at the erstwhile UPA government for not striking Pakistan after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks and wanted to know what prevented it from a military response.

"Congress should tell the people why it prevented the Army from attacking Pakistan after the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. A big Congress leader, who was the then home minister, recently said that after 26/11, our armed forces were ready to strike. The country also wanted that. If he is to be believed, because of pressure from one country it did not happen. The Congress government stopped the armed forces from attacking Pakistan," Modi said while commissioning the Navi Mumbai International Airport in Maharashtra's Raigad district.

This was the first reaction of Modi after former Union Home Minister P Chidambaram said in an interview that then US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had flown to New Delhi to meet him and then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to urge India not to start a war with Pakistan.

▸ Modi attacks Cong, Page 6



PM Narendra Modi and Adani Group chief Gautam Adani during the inauguration of the Navi Mumbai airport on Wednesday. PTI

Shah behaves like 'acting PM': Mamata

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday sharpened her attack against Union Home Minister Amit Shah by alleging that his actions were like those of an "acting prime minister". Banerjee said she wanted to urge the PM not to repose too much faith in Shah. Details on Page 10

Nitish is CM face of NDA in Bihar: BJP's Giriraj Singh

PATNA, DHNS: Ending months of speculations and putting a lid on uncertainty about who would be the chief ministerial candidate of the NDA if the ruling alliance wins yet another term in Bihar, senior BJP leader and Union minister Giriraj Singh said Nitish Kumar is the NDA's face for the CM post in the ensuing Assembly polls.

This is the first time in recent times any senior BJP leader has openly backed Nitish as the CM face for the upcoming polls.

Discounting any differences among the alliance partners, Giriraj said: "There is no rift within the NDA. Seat-sharing talks are going on in the right direction and a formal announcement in this regard will be made soon." Details on Page 10

AI firm Anthropic to open office in Bengaluru, hire local talent

BENGALURU, DHNS: AI research and development company Anthropic, which is behind the frontier AI model Claude, on Wednesday announced it will expand its global operations to India and open an office in Bengaluru.

The company, which recently onboarded Bengaluru-born Rahul Patil as the new Chief Technology Officer (CTO), said it has chosen the city for its strong talent density and proximity to India's enterprise ecosystem.

Bengaluru is Anthropic's second office in the Indo-Pacific region, following Tokyo, Japan.

The Bengaluru office will open in early 2026 and hire an in-market team focused on building AI for unique local uses across the country.

Commenting on Anthropic's new office in the Karnataka capital, state IT minister Priyank Kharge posted on X that Bengaluru is now a booming AI developer community, ranked No 5 globally in AI & DeepTech ecosystems.

▸ Anthropic, Page 6

Ex-top cop pats lawyer who tried to fling shoe at CJI

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former Bengaluru police commissioner R Bhaskar Rao was bashed online after he admired lawyer Rakesh Kishore who tried to hurl a shoe at Chief Justice of India B R Gawai.

Bhaskar Rao

Rao, a BJP leader, later said sorry when his tweet went viral, earning the wrath of netizens.

"Even if it is legally & terribly wrong, I admire your courage, at your age, to take a stand and live by it, irrespective of consequences [sic]," Rao said in a tweet responding to a handle impersonating Kishore.

Rao was responding to @RakeshKishore_l who wrote: "No regret, no sorrow, no repentance!"

After facing heavy fire, Rao tendered an apology.

"My reaction was one of aghast and shock that a person, despite being so highly educated, aged and experienced such an action knowing fully the consequences of a terribly and legally wrong act [sic], I have not insulted the Supreme Court, nor Chief Justice or any community. If my tweet has angered or hurt, I am sorry," Rao wrote.

▸ Bhaskar Rao, Page 6

NARCO MAIL

Duo orders drugs marked as 'pet food' by post, held

711 NDPS cases filed

1,486.55 Seized drugs (kg)

₹81.21 cr Value

1,048 Arrested (Indians: 1,013, Foreigners: 35)

*Jan to Oct 2025

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major operation, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police arrested two people who had ordered drugs from Thailand and Germany and received them at the Foreign Post Office in Chamarajpet by labelling them as 'pet food'.

Investigations revealed that the arrested Nizar Mohammed (37), from Malappuram and Rasheed M (46) from Kannur in Kerala, had ordered hydroponic ganja weighing 3 kg from Thailand and Germany by using fake names — Khachibbi Jeezs and Khidoinoise Jeez — and were making payments in cryptocurrency.

Hydroponic ganja seized at the Foreign Post Office in Bengaluru.

The street value of the drugs was around Rs 3.81 crore, the police said.

The police arrested Rasheed in Bengaluru when he had come to collect the parcel. Acting on specific inputs, the investigators on October 6 had engaged sweeper canines to sniff out the drugs.

The receiver address was Nagadevanahalli village in Chikkaballapur.

Interestingly, the suspects had mentioned a contact number and scratched it off, leading the police to their first major clue. They then traced Nizar and arrested him in Kerala.

"The suspect in Kerala was using real-time tracking to keep track of the movements of the parcel," a CCB investigator told *DH*.

▸ Drugs, Page 6

MARUTI SUZUKI NEXA

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Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Dept. of E, IT & Bt

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तेनुघाट बाँध प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट, बोकारो।
ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट सूचना

ई0 –निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या जल संसाधन विभाग/तेनुघाट बाँध प्रमण्डल, तेनुघाट/आई0 एफ0 बी0/एस0 बी0 डी0 –01/2025–26 दिनांक 08.10.2025

1	कार्य का नाम	Repair of cracks and treatment of water leakage using epoxy and shotcreting of Aqueduct number 01, Aqueduct number 03, Aqueduct number 04 and Aqueduct number 05 in Tenu Bokaro Canal under Tenughat Dam Division,Tenughat Bokaro
2	प्राक्कलित राशि	रूपये– 3,26,11,714.00 (रुपये –तीन करोड़ छब्बीस लाख ग्यारह हजार सात सौ चौदह) मात्र।
3	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	रूपये–10,000.00 (रुपये – दस हजार) मात्र।
4	अग्रधन की राशि	रूपये– 3,26,200.00 (रुपये–तीन लाख छब्बीस हजार दो सौ) मात्र।
5	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	04 (चार माह) ।
6	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	17.10.2025 को 11:00 AM बजे
7	निविदा समर्पित करने की अंतिम तिथि	29.10.2025 को 05:00 PM बजे
8	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	31.10.2025 को 03:00 PM बजे
9	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, तेनुघाट बाँध प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट, बोकारो।
10	ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट पदाधिकारी का मोबाईल नम्बर	8789848809
11	ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल का दूरभाष संख्या	06546-267462

नोट :–
1.केवल ई–निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे।
2.प्राक्कलित राशि घट बढ़ सकती है।
3.किसी भी विशेष जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

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तेनुघाट बाँध प्रमण्डल, तेनुघाट।

PR 363623 Water Resource(25-26)D

Student's Ayudha Puja stunt with toy gun triggers panic; police step in

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 21-year-old student from Lingarajapuram was detained by the Banaswadi police on Wednesday after a video of him firing a toy gun into the air during Ayudha Puja celebrations went viral on social media.

The student, identified as Rakshith G, allegedly caused panic among local residents by pretending to fire the weapon and making threats. The incident gained traction online after he uploaded the video to his social media account, prompting swift police intervention.

Following a summons, Rakshith appeared at the police station along with his father.

During questioning, he told officers that he had purchased the toy gun for Rs 4,500 from a local shop and had performed Ayudha Puja with it before filming the stunt. He admitted his intent was to gain popularity on social media.

His father offered an apology for his son's actions. The police have registered a non-cognisable report (NCR), and further investigation is underway.

Weapons seized; Three rowdies among 7 arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has arrested seven individuals, including three rowdy-sheeters, for illegal possession of weapons and allegedly plotting an attack on their rivals.

The Organised Crime Wing (OCW) of the CCB apprehended Sharath, Rajesh, and Bharath — known rowdy-sheeters — along with their associates Akash, Abhilash, Santhosh, and Narasimha Murthy.

Acting on intelligence inputs, the CCB conducted a targeted operation, seizing several weapons from the suspects.

A case has been registered, and further investigation is on.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Conference: Farm produce organisations; N Cheluvarayaswamy to inaugurate; Dayananda Reddy, Selvakumar and others to participate; Town Hall, JC Road; 10 am.

Founders' Day: GKVK Agricultural University; G Parameshwara to inaugurate; Dr Babu Rajendra Prasad Auditorium, GKVK Campus; 2.30 pm.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Tyagi'; Organised by Prathibha Kalaniketan; Ramalinga Reddy and Nagaraja Murthy to participate; Nayana Auditorium, JC Road; 4 pm.

Concert: Daaswada and team to perform; Raghavendra Sringeri, KV Shreyas, and others to perform; Nanjangud Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Jayanagar; 5.15 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.7°C
Minimum	21.6°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	75%
Sunset (Oct 9)	6:05 pm
Sunrise (Oct 10)	6:09 am
Moonrise	7:01 pm
Moonset	7:00 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Gujarat

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

by

Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat

In the august presence of

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw
Hon'ble Union Minister, Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & IT, India

On Thursday, 9th October 2025 at 09:45 hrs. at Ganpat University, Mehsana, Gujarat

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- Tourism & Culture
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SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RUB

Srl. No. (1) E-Tender No. CPM-ENGG-GSU-BSP-08-25-26. Date: 29.09.2025 Name of work: : Construction of RUB (by Box Pushing Method) 9i) in lieu of manned LC No. 338 at Km. 666/18-20 in CHAMPA YARD on JSG-BSP section. (ii) In lieu of LC No. 305 at Km. 610/19-21 on CPH-JSG section at Bilaspur Division of SEC Railway. **Tender Value : ₹ 19,65,09,200.72/-. EMD : ₹ 11,32,600.00/-. Completion Period : 18 Months. Start Date of Submission of Tender :** From **09.10.2025. Last Date of Submission of Tender :** Upto **15:30** hrs. on **23.10.2025**.

The complete information of above e-Tender Notice is available over website **https://www.ireps.gov.in**. Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.

Dy. Chief Engineer/GSU.
CPR/10/356 **S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.**

South East Central Railway @secrail

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum to E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/127/2025 dated 15.07.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Sl.No.	Item of Work	Approx.Value
1.	Construction of New Broad Gauge line between Chainage 66400 & Chainage 90000 (23.600 km) including Civil & Track works, Signal & Telecommunication works, Railway Electrification and Electrical General Services between Tavarekere (excl.) & Hiriyur (excl.) Stations in Tumkur-Chitradurga-Davangere new line project.	Rs. 413,07,10,552/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15.00 hrs on 31.10.2025

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/526/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Tender Notice No.: ECN-1-2025 Dated 29.09.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender (IREPS) for the following work.

Name of work	Approx.Value
AMC of Air Conditioning Unit including schedule maintenance and optional spares replacement of Chief Administrative Officer/Construction/ Bengaluru Cantonment office complex along with rest houses, Construction/Mysuru Unit and Construction/ Bengaluru Cantonment/ FB & Local outsourcing the Electrical maintenance activity of Service buildings, Quarters, ORHs, Switch room being maintained by Senior Section Engineer/ Electrical/Construction/Bengaluru Cantonment for a period of Two years including replacement of Electrical items.	Rs. 29,59,136.00

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 23.10.2025

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer,Traction Distribution-II/Construction/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/532/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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(CIN No.:U40108JH2013SGC001704)
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(E-mail: cetjusnl@gmail.com)

1st TIME EXTENSION NOTICE

Important date against **NIT No. 389/PR/JUSNL/2025-26** for Design, Engineering, Supply of Materials/ Equipments, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132/33 KV, 2 x 80 MVA Grid sub-station including construction of Control Room Building & approach road as well as other civil works at ITI More, Chas, Bokaro on turnkey basis is hereby extended in following manner:-

End date and time of upload of BID	22.10.2025 up to 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for technical & commercial part	23.10.2025 at 04.00 PM

This extension notice is also available on the website www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570 (कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

PR No. 361526

Sd/-
General Manager
C&M (NWBP)

PR 363606 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd (25-26)_D

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

No. SB/Store/2025-25(321) Bhopal, Dated: 01-10-2025

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

S.No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	EMD (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	Tender No.
1	**Training Room**	01	2,000/-	60,000/-	1st Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is nonrefundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule:**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	E-Tender Publish Date	03/10/2025 at 1200 hrs.
ii	Tender document download Start Date	04/10/2025 up to 1200 hrs.
iii	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in**	**08/10/2025 up to 1700 hrs.**
iv	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	09/10/2025 at 1200 hrs.
v	Bid Submission Start Date	14/10/2025 at 1000 hrs.
vi	Last date of online e-Tender submission	22/10/2025 up to 1600 hrs.
vii	Bid will be opened on	23/10/2025 up to 1600 hrs.
viii	Demonstration from	30/10/2025 at 12.00 hrs.

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

Sd/- **D.I.G. of Police**
Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755-2443654

G-19731/25

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

No. SB/Store/2025-25(308) Bhopal, Dated: 30-09-2025

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

S.No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	EMD (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	Tender No.
1	Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)	23	5000/-	2,07,000/-	1st Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is nonrefundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule:**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	E-Tender Publish Date	01/10/2025 at 1700 hrs.
ii	Tender document download Start Date	02/10/2025 up to 1700 hrs.
iii	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in**	**08/10/2025 up to 1700 hrs.**
iv	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	09/10/2025 at 1200 hrs.
V	Bid Submission Start Date	13/10/2025 at 1000 hrs.
vi	Last date of online e-Tender submission	21/10/2025 up to 1600 hrs.
vii	Bid will be opened on	22/10/2025 up to 1600 hrs.
viii	Demonstration from	28/10/2025 at 12.00 hrs.

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

Sd/- **D.I.G. of Police**
Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755-2443654

G-19700/25

B'luru Urban among 5 dists with 100% plus groundwater extraction

Cumulative figures of state improve as per Union govt study

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

SUCKED OUT

- Kolar 193.35%
- Bengaluru Urban 186.7%
- Chikkaballapur 164.33%
- Bengaluru Rural 147.05%
- Chitradurga 144.44%
- K'taka average: 68.44%

Five districts in Karnataka, including Bengaluru Urban, have worrying groundwater extraction levels of over 100%, even as the state as a whole has seen an improvement when compared to the previous estimation by the Union government.

As per the official data accessed by *DH*, Kolar (193.35%) leads the districts with over-exploitation of groundwater, followed by Bengaluru Urban (186.7%), Chikkaballapur (164.33%), Bengaluru Rural (147.05%) and Chitradurga (144.44%).

If the groundwater extraction exceeds 70%, it is considered 'semi-critical' and any figure between 90-100% is considered 'critical'. Extraction above 100% is deemed 'overexploited'.

The statewide average is 68.44%.

To address the issue, the Minor Irrigation Department is taking up the 'Water is Future' project, the first phase of which will cover 525 gram panchayats (GPs) in 27 taluks of 15 districts marked as "critical" or "overexploited". Of the 525 GPs, as many as 86 GPs are from the Bengaluru Urban district itself.

Cumulative figures improve

While the data for the five districts are worrying, the cumulative statewide figures have improved. As per the National Compilation on Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2024, conducted by the Union government, Karnataka stands 10th in groundwater extraction. This is an improvement over the previous report, where Karnataka stood fifth.

Punjab has the highest extraction in the country with 156.87%, followed by Rajasthan (149.86%), Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (142.17%). In South India, Pondicherry (75.91%) and Tamil Nadu (74.26%) have higher groundwater exploitation than Karnataka.

Addressing a news conference on Wednesday, Minor Irrigation Department Minister N S Boseraju said: "As many as 143 lakes in the KC (Koramangala–Challghatta) valley and 65 lakes in Hebbal–Nagavara (HN) valley have been filled. We have initiated the 2nd and 3rd stages. 50-60% lakes are being filled. We are conducting an evaluation every year. Because of the improvement, within a radius of 25-30km of the lakes, water is available at 250-300 ft instead of 1,300 ft. Because of this, vegetable production has improved by 70%, flowers (80%) and fruits (35%)."

Sources in the Minor Irrigation Department said the department was planning to use artificial intelligence (AI) to assess the groundwater levels in 41,489 lakes.

"Ultimately, the department aims to ensure that there is less groundwater extraction and more recharge of water," the source added.

Boseraju announced that the Neeriddare Nale (Water is Future) initiative will be formally launched by the government on Thursday.

Govt exploring options for relief from occupancy certificate mandate

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government is exploring legal options to safeguard home owners who have completed construction of their buildings and are unable to get power and water supply connections, owing to the Occupancy Certificate (OC) mandate by the Supreme Court.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Wednesday, held a meeting with ministers and officials to discuss how the problems could be addressed legally.

Recently, the government decided to exempt buildings constructed on plots with an area of 1,200 sq ft or less from obtaining an OC and this helped solve the problem for that category of people.

However, other home owners are still struggling since they have been denied water and power supply.

"There is a need to protect the home owners who have already finished construction and hence, the law department is exploring what can be done. Many states are already being served a contempt notice by the Supreme Court for failing to abide by its verdict. Hence, it is important that any decision we make is legally compliant," he said.

There are a few proposals that are now being examined to arrive at a decision, he added.

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RTC staff to go on hunger strike from Oct 15-19

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Joint Action Committee of the Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has announced that they will go on hunger strike from October 15 to 19 to press for the fulfilment of its demands.

The committee, comprising six employees' unions of road transport corporations (RTCs) in Karnataka, on Wednesday intimated the MDs of four RTCs about the planned strike. In a letter, the committee said they would protest in Bengaluru, Hubballi and Kalaburagi.

The unions have 2 key demands: payment of 38 months' arrears cumulatively amounting to Rs 1,785 crore and a 25% pay hike effective from Jan 1, 2024.

At a meeting on Aug 4, CM Siddaramaiah offered Rs 718 crore in arrears for 14 months (from Jan 1, 2022, to Feb 28, 2023), citing a July 2022 report by retired IAS officer M R Sreenivasa Murthy. The committee rejected the offer and called for strike on Aug 5. The strike was called off following a directive from the High Court.

The committee has accused the government of "failing" to hold talks on pending issues, despite letters being sent on Aug 11 and Sept 15.

Caste census covers 1.22 cr households

BENGALURU, DHNS: The ongoing social and educational survey enumerated 83% households across the state at the end of the 17th day of enumeration.

By the end of Wednesday, 1.22 crore households were covered. There are 1.43 crore households in the state. The survey, which began on September 22, was scheduled to end on October 7.

However, the state government decided to extend the survey till October 18. The enumeration has been lagging behind in Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits, since the survey only began in the GBA limits from October 4.

No respect for Dalits under Modi govt, says Kharge

AICC chief condemns attack on CJI, Raebareli lynching

BENGALURU, DHNS

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge charged on Wednesday that there was no respect for Dalit citizens - be it an ordinary person or someone holding a high position - under the Modi administration.

Kharge said this at a news conference, his first after being hospitalised for a pacemaker implantation.

The Congress veteran was referring to a lawyer's attempt to throw a shoe at Chief Justice of India B R Gawai and the alleged lynching of a Valmiki (ST) man in Uttar Pradesh.

"I'm saying with sadness that the kind of reaction to this incident (involving Gawai) that came from lawyers, governments and political parties was not on a larger scale. But some progressive states, also progressive-thinking advocates and political party leaders condemned it," Kharge said, lamenting that the incident did not evoke a large-scale outcry across India.

Bihar polls: 'Will solve seat-sharing issue'

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed confidence that his party would 'solve' seat-sharing issues with its alliance partners for the Bihar polls.

"We are going to solve this. There's a meeting that I'm attending virtually. We're sorting it out," Kharge said.

Kharge urged the government to take strict action against the lawyer.

Kharge also condemned the lynching in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh. "It shows the extent to which law-and-order in Uttar Pradesh has deteriorated. If the man had committed a wrong, a case could have been registered and he arrested. Instead, people took the law into their hands," he said.

Citing both incidents, Kharge said Dalit citizens "have no respect under this government."

"We have to fight, instead of staying quiet. If a person like the Chief Justice is insulted, what will be the condition of a common man or an officer or a clerk?" Kharge said.

"I don't want to use this politically...such a mindset in society is being created by certain organisations. I condemn the organisations that are creating such mindsets and are spreading such ideology...no one should incite fire in society by insulting someone," he said.

The lawyer's ideology does not treat humans with dignity and deprives women of their position in society, Kharge said.

"This is the mindset even after 78 years of independence," he said. "In the name of Manusmruti and Sanatana Dharma, they still want to snatch the fundamental rights of people. Such people must be punished," he said.

7 prison officials suspended over dereliction of duty

Action after inmate celebrated birthday in jail

BENGALURU , DHNS

The Prisons Department has initiated disciplinary action against seven officials of the Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara, for dereliction of duty after a video of an inmate celebrating his birthday inside the jail went viral.

A head warder and a warder have been suspended, while an assistant superintendent, two jailers, and two assistant jailers are facing departmental inquiry for allegedly dereliction of duty in connection with the incident, sources in the department told *DH*.

The video, which surfaced on social media, raised serious questions over internal security measures at the high-security facility.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) for Prisons B Dayananda ordered a preliminary inquiry into the incident under the supervision of DIG (Southern Range) K C Divyashree.

The probe, whose report was submitted on Wednesday, revealed that seven officials, including a head warder, warder, assistant superintendent, two jailers, and two assistant jailers, were responsible for the incident.

DIG Divyashree has recommended disciplinary action against all seven officers and further action will be taken soon based on the findings of the disciplinary enquiry, a senior officer told *DH*.

What happened

Srinivasa alias Gubbachhi Seena, a rowdy-sheeter lodged in the prison on murder charges, was seen wearing an apple garland and cutting cake with fellow inmates in the video.

The celebration is said to have taken place on September 9 in Barrack Number 6, Cell Number 7, during the afternoon hours.

Officials on duty allegedly failed to prevent the gathering, amounting to negligence. To trace the source of the mobile phone used to record the video, the department has lodged a complaint with the Parappana Agrahara Police Station. "The fellow inmates managed to bring the apples from Hopcoms located in the premises and used bread pieces from the prison's bakery to make a cake", the officer added.

SC allows bail to two accused in DJ Halli-KG Halli riots

Says they have been in jail for more than 5 years

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has granted bail to two accused, arrested under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act in cases related to the riots of 2020 at DJ Halli and KG Halli in Bengaluru, noting that they had been in jail for more than five years.

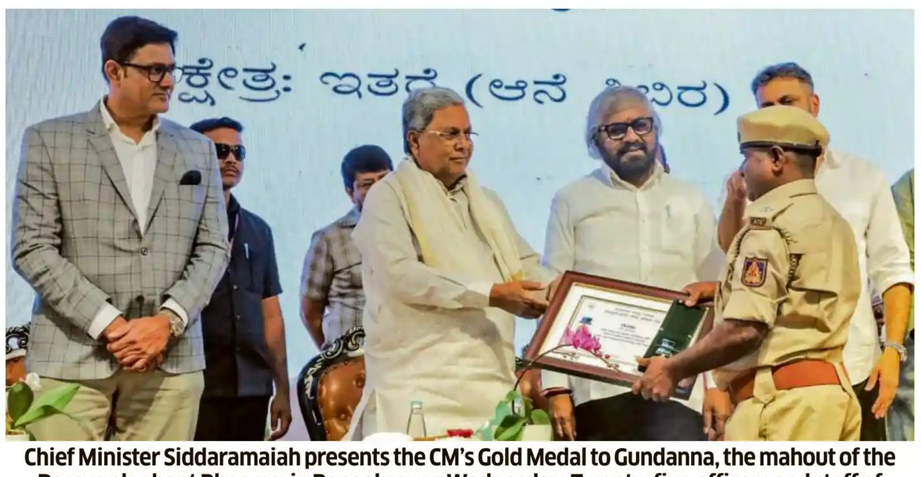
A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma noted that there were 254 witnesses to be examined and the appellants were two amongst the 138 accused persons.

"Taking note of these facts, we have no hesitation in setting aside the impugned order(s) and granting bail to the appellants," the bench said, granting relied to Kareem alias Sadam and another person.

The court noted that charges had already been framed in the case investigated by the National Investigation Agency.

It allowed the appeal filed against the Karnataka High Court's order of July 1, 2025.

The appellants were arrayed as accused for the offences punishable under Sections 143, 147, 148, 353, 333, 332, 436, 427 and 149 of the Indian Penal Code and under Sections 16, 18 and 20 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and Section 2 of the Prevention of Destruction and Loss of Property Act, 1981.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presents the CM's Gold Medal to Gundanna, the mahout of the Dasara elephant Bheema, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Twenty-five officers and staff of the Forest Department were awarded the Chief Minister's Medal for the year 2024. Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and Forest Department's brand ambassador Anil Kumble are seen.

CM asks forest dept to check wildlife conflict, habitat loss

BENGALURU, DHNS

Shrinking wildlife habitat and rising man-animal conflict became a central point of the event held to mark the closing ceremony of the National Wildlife Week, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directing the forest department to do better to save the natural landscapes.

On the back of the poisoning of six tigers in MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Siddaramaiah warned that killing wildlife to avenge the loss of cattle would be viewed seriously.

"We will take action against those who kill wildlife. Forest officers need to work with more responsibility in this regard. At the same time, we need studies to understand why the animals are straying from their habitats to come up with scientific solutions," he said.

1 MW solar plant in Bannerghatta

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) will tap solar power to fulfil its current and future energy needs.

"This will be the first biological park in the country to run on green energy. The project will be flagged off next week," he said.

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre stressed the importance of habitat protection.

"It is difficult to increase forest cover under the present circumstances. Therefore, protecting the existing forests from encroachment is highly important," he stated.

Referring to the second incident of tiger poisoning in the MM Hills, Khandre said he has directed the officers to conduct awareness programmes among the people living near forests.

The event saw the release of the selection list of 514 beat foresters to fill the high number of vacancies in the department.

Anil Kumble, the brand ambassador of the department, requested the chief minister to suggest to the Centre to award presidential medals to forest personnel rendering exceptional service.

RSS leader K Narahari dead

BENGALURU, DHNS: Veteran RSS man K Narahari, who represented the Bangalore Teachers' constituency in the Legislative Council for 18 years, died on Wednesday. He was 93.

K Narahari

A resident of Srirampura, Narahari's last rites were conducted at the Harishchandra Ghat on Wednesday afternoon. Top BJP and RSS leaders, including former chief minister B S Yediyurappa and Sah Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale, condoled Narahari's death.

Narahari was born in Mysuru on May 25, 1932. After earning a mechanical engineering degree from BMS College of Engineering in 1958, Narahari went to Kodagu where he worked as an RSS Pracharak.

He was a mechanical engineering lecturer for 24 years. He also taught at the RSS' Officers' Training Camp (OTC). He rose to become Kshetreeya Karyavah in the RSS and served as president of The Mythic Society.

As an MLC (1984-2002), Narahari was known for his speeches on education in the Legislative Council. In one interview, Narahari recalled that his speech on minority appeasement earned praise from the likes of J H Patel.

"Both Christianity and Islam failed to unite mankind. Even Marxism has failed to unite the world. Ultimately, it is nationalism which binds a country together and not religion," Narahari had said.

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Zero FIR in Bengaluru against lawyer who hurled shoe at CJI

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police on Wednesday registered a zero FIR against the Delhi-based lawyer who tried to hurl a shoe at Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai in the Supreme Court on October 6.

The Vidhana Soudha police have booked 71-year-old advocate Rakesh Kishore under sections 132 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from the discharge of his duty) and 133 (assault or criminal force with intent to dishonour a person, otherwise than on grave provocation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

A zero FIR can be registered anywhere, regardless of where the alleged offence occurred.

The FIR was registered following a complaint by Bhaktavachala, the president of the All India Advocates' Association based in Halasuru, Bengaluru.

"On October 6, one advocate, Rakesh Kishore, committed an offence by throwing a shoe at the dias in Court Hall No 1 at the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Justice of India, B R Gavai, and Justice K Vinod Chandran were seated in Court Hall No 1 at the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi. The complainant requests to register a case against the accused to protect the judiciary, etc," Bhaktavachala was quoted as saying in the FIR.

Police acknowledged the complaint and registered a zero FIR. "The case will be transferred to the jurisdictional police station in New Delhi for further investigation as the offence occurred there," a senior Bengaluru police officer told *DH*.

'Most B'luru lakes bigger than 100 acres, Bill won't impact them'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju said on Wednesday that most of the 187 lakes in Bengaluru were bigger than 100 acres and would remain unaffected by the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (Amendment) Bill. Overall, there are 41,849 lakes in the state.

Addressing a news conference, Boseraju explained that the government would soon send back the bill to Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot with necessary clarifications.

While sending back the bill, Gehlot had underlined issues raised by Bengaluru Town Hall, a citizens' collective, which petitioned Raj Bhavan seeking rejection of the Bill.

As per the bill, lakes up to 0.05 guntas, or 544 sq ft, will not have a buffer zone.

For a lake measuring up to one acre, the buffer zone will be 3 metres. It will be 6 metres for lakes sized 1-10 acres, 12 metres for lakes sized 10-25 acres, 24 metres for lakes sized 25-100 acres and 30 metres for lakes above 100 acres.

Boseraju reiterated the rationale behind the bill. He explained that the people and legislators from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi had approached the government to relax the buffer zones, and that a committee of bureaucrats headed by the chief secretary had recommended the changes that were later incorporated in the bill.

Oppn leader Ashoka's escort vehicle driver found dead

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 34-year-old head constable was found hanging at his home in Bapujinagar in western Bengaluru on Wednesday, police said.

The deceased, Sharanagouda Ramagol, was attached to the City Armed Reserve (CAR) and served as the escort vehicle driver for the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka.

According to Byatarayanapura police, Ramagol was found hanging at his residence when his brother-in-law came to see him. They are investigating the circumstances surrounding his death. No death note was found.

Originally from Kalaburagi, Ramagol lived in Bengaluru with his wife Shailashri, a constable posted at the Magadi road traffic station, and their two daughters.

Ashoka, who visited Victoria Hospital to pay his last respects and meet the family, expressed his condolences.

"He was well-behaved and had no bad habits. He never shared any problems and did not seem to have family issues. He had been working with us for almost two years," he said.

Ramagol had not reported for duty on Wednesday.

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Eligible beneficiaries will get BPL cards, says Muniyappa

KOLAR, DHNS: Ineligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) card holders will be weeded out during the ongoing verification drive, and eligible beneficiaries, some of whom have been waiting for as long as two-and-a-half years will be given BPL cards, said Karnataka Minister for Food and Civil Supplies in KGF on Wednesday.

Queried about reports of a Cabinet reshuffle in the state, Muniyappa said, "That is a subject on which the Congress high command will take a decision."

Condemning the incident wherein a lawyer attempted to hurl a shoe at Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, Muniyappa said, "Despite being a lawyer, he has conducted himself in an uncivilised manner. Such acts by those enacting laws, enforcing laws and those tasked with providing justice to the people are to be condemned. All the lawyers and judges have been unanimous in condemning the incident."

Appealing to the public to participate in the Social and Educational Survey – caste census – Muniyappa said, "The survey has been ordered to uplift those communities that are lagging on social, economic and educational indices. The survey has now been extended till October 18, and I urge people to participate in the exercise."

Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

WATER IS FUTURE
WATER IS THE LIFE FORCE OF THE WORLD

WATER IS FUTURE

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Inauguration by
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

August presence of
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

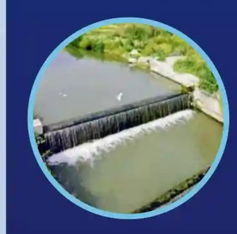
Presence of
Shri N.S. Boseraju
Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science & Technology

Presided by
Shri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble MLA, Shivajinagar Constituency

Tripartite Projects that revived Groundwater in the Bayaluseeme Region

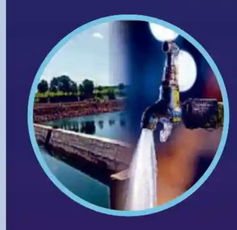
KC Valley, HN Valley, and Vrishabhavathi Valley Projects: These ambitious initiatives recycle and treat wastewater through secondary-level purification to fill lakes across the semi-arid districts of **Kolar, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapur, and Ramanagara**. Over **700 lakes** have been rejuvenated in phases. As a result, **groundwater levels in nearby borewells have risen significantly.**

The projects have received **praise from the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and are recognized as model initiatives in sustainable wastewater management across Asia.**



Water Conservation Structures Supporting Groundwater Recharge :

To enhance groundwater levels across Karnataka, over **8,000 water conservation structures** have been built - including check dams, bridge-cum-barrages, anicuts, pick-up weirs, and rainwater recharge pits. The Department has successfully managed **3,787 tanks,** providing irrigation to **over 25 lakh acres** of farmland, benefiting thousands of farmers.



Groundwater Growth – Karnataka's Prosperity

Due to various water conservation and lift irrigation projects, **groundwater levels have shown a marked rise in 150 taluks** across the State over the last two years. In the same period, **6 overexploited, 4 critical, and 10 semi-critical taluks** have shown significant improvement, demonstrating measurable groundwater recovery.

Monitoring Groundwater Quality and Levels

To monitor groundwater trends continuously, **2,714 observation borewells** and **2,214 digital water level indicators with telemetry systems** have been established. These networks collect and consolidate data **every six hours** for analysis.

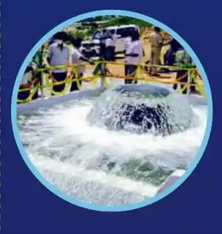
An **annual groundwater assessment report** is jointly prepared by the Directorate of Groundwater and the Groundwater Board, enabling **efficient use, regulation, and sustainable management** of groundwater resources.

Technology-Driven 'Digital Water Stock' for Integrated Water Management

To ensure transparency and accountability in water conservation and management, the State is developing a **Digital Water Stock a technology-based platform that brings all water sources under one system.**

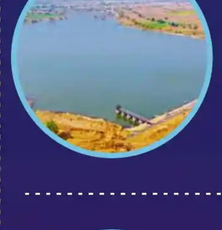
This platform will map and monitor, in real time: ● Source locations and catchment areas. ● Storage capacity.

The goal is to use this data to **formulate evidence-based policies** for sustainable groundwater development.



Lift Irrigation-Supporting the Farming Community

Across Karnataka **472 lift irrigation schemes** are being managed effectively. Through these, water has been supplied to **over 1,318 tanks,** providing irrigation to **more than 2 lakh acres** of agricultural land - directly benefiting the farming community.



Conservation of Water Bodies-A Shared Responsibility :

Out of **41,849 water bodies** in the State, **measurements for 35,989** have been completed successfully. Encroachment has been identified in **13,644 tanks, and 7,987 tanks (70%)** have already been cleared of encroachments.

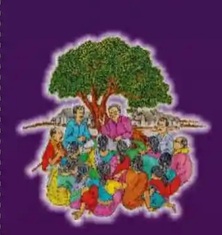
Atal Bhujal Yojana

Under the Atal Bhujal Yojana, with an outlay of **Rs.1,034 crore,** the Department of Minor Irrigation, in collaboration with seven departments, has built **over 736 water conservation structures** across **14 districts, 41 taluks, and 1,199 Gram Panchayats** facing severe groundwater depletion.

Comparative analysis between the **five-year average** and the **current year's groundwater levels** shows improvement in **396 Gram Panchayats** under this project in 2024.

Water is Future - Water is the Life force of the World

In its **first phase,** the **Water is Future** program focuses on addressing the critical challenges of groundwater conservation and resource sustainability in **15 districts, 27 taluks, and 525 overexploited Gram Panchayats**. The initiative promotes **community-driven groundwater recharge and conservation,** building on the success of earlier water management models and sustainable practices.



A comprehensive framework is being developed to ensure long-term water security for the State. For FY **2025–26, projects worth Rs.200 crore** are being planned, modeled on **Maharashtra's Shirapur pattern** of groundwater development.

Shri N.S. Boseraju, Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science & Technology, visiting BWSSB STP Plant with officers.

WATER IS FUTURE
WATER IS THE LIFE FORCE OF THE WORLD

"WATER IS FUTURE"

"Water is Future" is not just a slogan but it is a movement conserving Ground Water **prosperous, sustainable and resilient Karnataka.**

Lets join this movement.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Shri B.K. Pavithra
Secretary to Government
Dept. of Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development

Shri Prakash Srihari. B.
Chief Engineer (South Zone-Bengaluru)
Dept. of Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development

Shri H.L. Venkatesh
Chief Engineer (North Zone-Vijayapura)
Dept. of Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development

Shri B.K. Rajendra
Director
Directorate of Ground Water

IN BRIEF

New B'luru-Kochi VB train

▸ **THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS:** The Centre has sanctioned a new Vande Bharat (VB) train from Ernakulam to Bengaluru via Thrissur and Palakkad, BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Wednesday. The new Vande Bharat service would come as a relief for Malayalis working in Bengaluru, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, also the former union minister, said in a statement.

KEA extends last date for PG-NEET applications

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** Following a series of technical glitches, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has extended the last date for submission of applications for PG-NEET till October 15. As per the previous schedule, the last date for submission of applications was October 9 (11 am) and the same has been extended till October 15.

Scrutiny of health scheme users

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** The government, in an attempt to strengthen the Yashaswini scheme, is scrutinising over 41 lakh registered users to check for duplication in other govt health or insurance schemes. The department will continue to provide for the beneficiaries in the other schemes that the beneficiaries have registered for.

2 order drugs marked as 'pet food' by post...

Drugs, from Page 1

"Also, the lack of physical screening and the use of automated screening helped the narcotic consignment pass the checks."

The sniffer dogs also managed to identify other parcels containing 4 kg of hydro ganja worth around Rs 4 crore. It is being separately investigated.

Two foreigners among four others arrested

Besides the two busts, six people, including two foreigners, were arrested and drugs worth Rs 23.84 crore were recovered over the past few weeks.

In one case, the Kothanur police arrested Sudanese citizens Zargoun Salaheldin Aburai Elhassan and Marwa Esam Osman Widaa, both 32, for possessing banned MDMA crystals weighing 4.815 kg worth whopping Rs 12.03 crore. A separate case has been registered.

According to data shared by the Bengaluru police on Wednesday, since January this year, 35 foreigners and 1,013 Indians were arrested by the Bengaluru police in drug cases. A whopping 1,486.55 kg of narcotics were recovered during the period, the data showed.

Crop loss: Compensation to farmers in 30 days, says govt

Crops on 12.54 lakh hectares lost in state during southwest monsoon

BENGALURU, DHNS

Floods have destroyed tur crop at Belagumpa village in Chittapur taluk of Kalaburagi district. The government is spending about Rs 2,000 crore to compensate farmers, according to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda. DH PHOTO

The process of compensating flood-hit farmers has started and it will be completed in 30 days, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Wednesday, adding that crop losses had occurred on 12.54 lakh hectares of land during the southwest monsoon.

The government is spending about Rs 2,000 crore to compensate farmers, according to the minister.

From June to the first week of September, heavy rainfall resulted in crop losses on approximately 5.29 lakh hectares. The loss was surveyed and payment was ready, Gowda said.

"In September, spells of heavy rains coupled with riverine flood in the Bhima basin lashed districts of North Karnataka and the second round of floods led to additional crop loss of about 7.24 lakh hectares mainly in four districts of Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Bidar and Vijayapura. These four districts are upwardly revising their losses by redoing the joint field survey. This will be completed in about 10 days," Gowda said.

"The process of payment for the first-round losses of about 5.29 lakh hectares has started," Gowda said.

The state government is providing Rs 8,500 per hectare from its coffers. This takes payment for rainfed crops to Rs 17,000 per hectare, irrigated crops to Rs 25,500 and perennial crops to Rs 31,000.

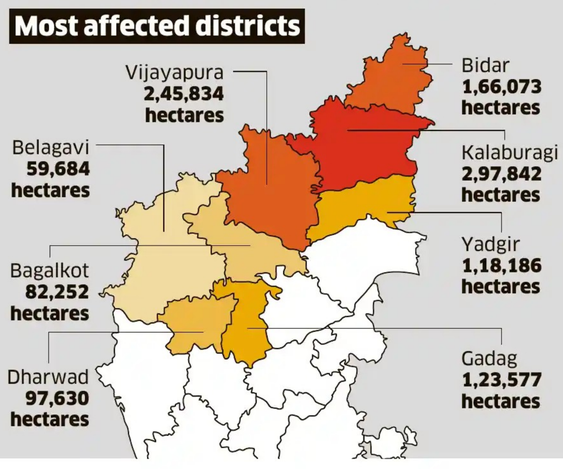
"Payment for the recently-damaged crops of about 7.24 lakh hectares will start in about 10 days as a joint survey in the fields is underway already," Gowda said.

Money will be credited directly into bank accounts of farmers, he said. "The government follows Aadhaar-based direct fund transfer to farmers' bank accounts with complete transparency and the most prompt payment system in the country," he said.

PERISHED PRODUCE

First phase (June to 1st week of Sept)	Second phase (2nd week of Sept to 30th Sept)
5,29,370 hectares	7,24,973 hectares

Most affected districts



Quota: Get new certificates, AK, AD, AA castes told

SC group they choose will be permanent & can't be changed

BENGALURU, DHNS

The social welfare department has issued a circular mandating persons from Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida and Adi Andhra (AK, AD and AA) Scheduled Caste (SC) categories to obtain new caste certificates based on their original castes and the internal reservation category they belong to.

According to the state government's 6:6:5 formula for internal reservation, 16 castes come under group A (6%), 19 castes come under group B (6%) and 63 castes come under group C (5%).

The government decided that the people who have registered under AK, AD and AA categories can avail of reservation benefits either under group A (Madiga and 15 affiliated castes) or group B (Holeya and 18 affiliated castes).

As per the circular, those registered as AK, AD and AA should specify their original caste while applying for new caste certificates. Their original castes will be ascertained through local inspections and added to either group A or B.

However, candidates who don't specify their original caste have to either choose group A or group B and provide an affidavit for the same.

"Whichever group (A or B) the candidate chooses will be permanent for them and their family members and cannot be changed at any cost," the circular adds.

Apart from AK, AD and AA, there are 98 castes categorised under groups A, B and C (overall 101 SC castes in Karnataka).

For these castes, the department has mandated taking steps to add the group alongside the caste in the Atal Ji Janasnehi Kendra software.

For those in the 98 SC castes applying for new certificates, a local inspection will be conducted of the candidate's parents and their original caste before providing the caste certificate.

'Bigg Boss': JD(S) links venue closure order to DKS' 'nut & bolt' remark

BENGALURU, DHNS: The KSPCB's closure order against an amusement park hosting the Kannada version of popular TV show 'Bigg Boss' took a political turn on Wednesday, despite clarifications from authorities.

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) issued the closure order to Vels Studios and Entertainment Pvt Ltd (Ms Jolly Wood Studios and Adventures) located in Bidadi Industrial Area after issuing multiple notices since the inspection in March 2024.

The amusement park, where the 'Big Boss' studio was set up, was shut down on Tuesday late night.

The JD(S) accused Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar of being vindictive towards the film industry by recalling his statement that he "knows how to tighten their nuts and bolts".

Dubbing Shivakumar as 'nut-and-bolt minister,' the JD(S) said in a statement, "You've closed Bigg Boss set under the pretext of rule violations. In the same way, when will you close potholes?".

The 'nut bolt' remark was interpreted as a reference to a statement D K Shivakumar made earlier this year that the "nuts and bolts" of celebrities who are not supporting state-related issues need to be "tightened" a bit.

Give them a chance: DyCM

Shivakumar brushed aside the charges and said, "I had inaugurated the facility (studio). I have told the (Bengaluru South) Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police that employment is important. Whatever is the (violation), give them an opportunity," he said.

KSPCB chief unrelenting

KSPCB chairman P M Narendra Swamy, however, noted the deputy commissioner had no such powers.

"D K Shivakumar has not spoken to me. I am hearing about his remarks through mediapersons. He might have responded to popular opinion. We have issued a closure order to nudge the company to correct themselves. This is neither a permanent closure order nor does it relate to Bigg Boss," he said.

Swamy said closure orders had been issued to 152 units that had failed to comply with environmental rules.

"I can't treat one case as a special category. Also, it's not an individual's decision. There is a committee which looks into the matter and acts against violations," he said.

LEGACY IN LIGHTS

A beautiful view of the illuminated Mysuru palace from Chamundi Hill on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ANOOP RAGH T

AI firm Anthropic to open office...

Anthropic, from Page 1

"With over 1 lakh AI professionals, Bengaluru boasts 50% of India's AI talent. Anthropic's arrival will expand opportunities for local talent, R&D and AI product development," he said.

Anthropic's co-founder and CEO, Dario Amodei, who is visiting India this week, said India is compelling because of the scale of its technical talent and the commitment from the Indian government to ensure the benefits of artificial intelligence reach all areas of society, not just concentrated pockets.

"There is deep alignment between the challenges India is tackling and our mission as a company, from deploying AI across diverse languages and contexts, to building frameworks for responsible governance. India's AI ecosystem will play a central role in how AI develops globally and democratically, and we're looking forward to working with organisations in India to pave a path for how beneficial AI can be scaled in a way that serves everyone," the CEO said.

Paul Smith, Anthropic's chief commercial officer, said the firm's expansion comes at a pivotal moment when Indian enterprises & startups are seeking AI models they can trust. "They need systems that combine frontier performance with safety and reliability required to support critical business operations at massive scale that they operate. We see remarkable promise in India's innovation ecosystem – vibrant startup & developer communities alongside Indian enterprises are building solutions that impact millions of lives globally," he said.

Anthropic has over 3 lakh business customers worldwide & nearly 80% of Claude consumer usage comes from outside US. India ranks second globally in Claude usage, behind only US, the firm said, adding it is also investing heavily in advancing Claude's Indic language capabilities. Last month, it raised $13 billion & was valued at $183 billion.

Cough syrup deaths...

Cough syrup, from Page 1

The notice sought details like the total quantity of the drug manufactured, distribution records, master formula, and batch packaging documentation. "The firm is also required to recall the drug from recipients and furnish details of recalled stock," the notice added.

It further stated that the sample was misbranded for omitting the mandatory label warning: "Fixed dose combination shall not be used in children below four years of age."

Wednesday also saw a seven-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) from the Madhya Pradesh government visit the now-closed factory and engage with local residents. Assisted by the Tamil Nadu police, the team later visited the company's registered city address and collected relevant material for the ongoing inquiry.

"The team collected CCTV footage from the premises," a Tamil Nadu police source said.

The SIT is searching for Ranganathan, the company's owner, who has been missing for three days since Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu banned the syrup following the reported deaths.

Meanwhile, the Telangana Drugs Control Administration (DCA) issued an advisory urging the public to immediately stop using two cough syrups -- Relife and Respifresh TR -- which have also been found to be adulterated with diethylene glycol. Both products are made in Gujarat.

This warning follows notification from the Drug Testing Laboratory of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, which detected DEG contamination in these syrups. It is the second such advisory from Telangana in recent days, following the earlier warning against Coldrif.

(With inputs from S N V Sudhir in Hyderabad)

Come clear on not attacking Pak...

Modi attacks Cong, from Page 1

The PM, however, neither mentioned the US nor took the name of Chidambaram.

Sharpening his attack on the Congress, Modi said the party needed to tell the country who succumbed under pressure from a foreign country and played with the sentiments of the country.

The PM said the Opposition party's weakness emboldened terrorists and compromised national security. "The government in power at the time sent a message of weakness and appeared to surrender before terrorism," he said and demanded clarity as to who influenced this decision, which he said undermined the sentiments of Mumbai and the nation.

Citing Operation Sindoor, Modi said for his government, "nothing is more important than the security of the nation and its citizens".

In a recent interview, Chidambaram had said: "The whole world descended on Delhi to tell us 'don't start a war' (against Pakistan). Two or three days after I took over (Condoleezza Rice came) to meet me and the PM to say: 'Please don't react'. I said this is a decision which the government will take. (But) an act of retribution did cross my mind. The PM had discussed this (retaliatory military action) even when the attack was going on...and the conclusion, largely influenced by the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Foreign Service, was that we should not physically react to the situation."

BJP Yuva Morcha chief hacked to death in Gangavathi

GANGAVATHI (KOPPAL DIST), DHNS: The BJP Yuva Morcha Gangavathi city unit chief, Venkatesh Kurubar (33) was hacked to death by a gang reportedly over an old enmity, early on Wednesday.

Venkatesh Kurubar

In a police complaint, slain Venkatesh's father said, "He was returning home after dinner with friends. A car rammed into his bike. A gang of five men pounced on him & attacked him with machetes and iron rods. He bled to death on the spot."

"Based on the complaint, a case of murder has been registered. In a swift action, four of five assailants - Dhanraj, Vijay, Saleem and Bhim - have been arrested," Koppal SP Ram L Arasiddi told reporters.

He said personal rivalry is suspected to be the reason behind the murder.

Ex-top cop pats lawyer who...

Bhaskar Rao, from Page 1

In 2022, Bhaskar Rao was an additional director-general of police when he resigned from service and joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). In March 2023, Rao switched to the BJP. At the time, Rao hailed the BJP as "the only party that believes in upholding the tenets of Sanatana Dharma".

Kishore, the lawyer who tried to throw a shoe at Gawai, said he would not tolerate any "insult to Sanatan".

In the 2023 Assembly election, Rao was the BJP's candidate from Chamarajpet. He lost to Congress' B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan by 53,953 votes.

OKAY TO MIMIC RITUALS OR NOT?

Social media users counter Kantara producers' warning

BENGALURU, DHNS

A note, issued by the makers of the film *Kantara: A Legend - Chapter 1*, warning fans not to imitate the rituals portrayed in the film, has sparked widespread debate online.

On Tuesday, Hombale Films, the production house behind the movie, posted a statement on social media describing such imitations as "inappropriate."

Several videos circulating online show audience members dressed in *Bhootakola* ritual attire, performing both inside and outside cinema halls. Some clips even depict individuals appearing to be possessed.

In an earlier statement issued on Monday night, Hombale Films described such actions as an "offence" and warned that legal action would be taken against those imitating the film's lead character.

The post, however, was later deleted and replaced with a revised version that omitted the legal threat. The updated note simply urged fans to refrain from such enactments out of respect for the tradition.

Reactions to the note have been mixed, with many social media users expressing both support and criticism.

Actor and activist Chetan Ahimsa accused the filmmakers of hypocrisy. Posting on X, he wrote: "'Kantara makers tell others not to emulate Daiva rituals. Hypocrisy is holding others to different standards than oneself. 'Kantara' makers can accrue exorbitant cr by twisting Daiva w/out any social concern—when others do it on a personal level, it's condemned? Double standards (sic)?"

Another user questioned the decision to proceed with a sequel, saying: "Why did they continue with the second part even after knowing this would harm the Daivaradhane belief system? If they go ahead with Part 3, it'll only prove they are exploiting Daiva stories for profit."

Kantara: A Legend - Chapter 1, which was released on October 2, is performing as a blockbuster at the box office, according to trade trackers on X.

The popular tracking account Karnataka Box Office added: "When films make crores by placing Daivaradhane at the core and even hike ticket prices by nearly 200%, what moral ground is there to preach to others? Is it that only a few have the right to profit from this culture? (sic)"

An account named TakkariDonga wrote: Stop virtue signalling. You're literally profiting off the tradition. This isn't a non-profit documentary. While it's wrong for people to perform these rituals in public places, it doesn't give you the moral high ground (sic)."

User IAMprady offered a more balanced take: There's just one humble request from the Tulu people — please don't cosplay the Daiva. Beyond that, show your reverence however you choose. Learn about the culture, the rituals, their significance — just don't enact them (sic)."

Another user, Abhishek Chowdhury, defended the film, writing: "The film was made with good intentions — to showcase the sacred and beautiful rituals of our Sanatan Dharma. Kindly refrain from mocking rituals that are sacred to many. Such acts make it harder to bring real folklore into the spotlight (sic)."

Meanwhile, Ramaswamy, another user on X, questioned the film's credibility: "Was the Daiva on Rishab Shetty when he made the movie? He imitated the ritual to make money. Now, people on social media are doing it for engagement. It's the same. Your production house doesn't own the act (sic)."

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over South Interior and North Interior Karnataka and many places over Coastal Karnataka

Forecast Oct 09: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	29	20.2	00
Bidar	29.2	20	00
Vijayapura	30.2	21	00
Dharwad	30.6	19	00
Haveri	30	21	00
Kalaburagi	32.7	23.4	00
Raichur	31.4	21.4	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	30.6	24.1	00
Karwar	32.5	24.8	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.9	22.1	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	28	18.6	00
Bengaluru	29.2	21.6	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	31	19.9	00
Davangere	29	20	00
Hassan	29.4	NA	00
Mysuru	32.4	20	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	29.8	18.6	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	29.8	20.3	15
Kolkata	33	26	00
Mumbai	31.3	23.8	00
Chennai	34.1	26.3	00
Pune	30.7	19.4	00
Hyderabad	31.1	22	03
Th'puram	34.3	25	00

Centre virtually failed Wayanad landslide victims: Kerala HC

KOCHI, PTI: In a stinging observation, the Kerala High Court on Wednesday said that the Union government has 'virtually failed' the victims of the 2024 landslides in Wayanad by not exercising its powers to waive off the loans availed by them.

A bench of justices A K Jayasankaran Nambiar and Jobin Sebastian termed as 'unfortunate' and 'exasperating' the central government's stand not to waive the loans of the victims.

It directed that any recovery action by banks against the landslide victims shall be kept in abeyance till the final disposal of the PIL.

The bench said it cannot accept the Centre's stand that it was powerless to act, as under Article 73 of the Constitution it has 'vast powers'.

The court said it thought that the Centre as 'the repository of such vast powers', would have considered itself constitutionally obliged to act in a responsible manner to protect the fundamental right to life of the hapless victims of a natural disaster, especially when it categorised the landslides as 'severe'.

Delhi shocker: Woman pours boiling oil on sleeping husband

NEW DELHI, PTI: In a shocking incident, a woman allegedly poured boiling oil and sprinkled red chilli powder on her sleeping husband in the wee hours of October 3.

The 28-year-old pharmaceutical firm worker, Dinesh Kumar, was brought to Safdarjung Hospital with 20% burns and was admitted to the ICU in a critical condition.

According to an FIR lodged at Ambedkar Nagar Police Station the same day, Dinesh's wife Sadhna allegedly poured hot oil on his torso around 3 am.

The couple's eight-year-old daughter was also in the house at the time.

"Around 3.15 am, I suddenly felt a sharp, burning pain across my body. I saw my wife standing and pouring boiling oil on my torso and face. Before I could get up or call for help, she sprinkled red chilli powder on my burns," Dinesh alleged.

When he protested, his wife retorted, "If you shout, I will pour more oil on you."

According to Dinesh the couple has been married for eight years and has had a troubled relationship.

A police source said the couple had a row on the day of the incident.

Sadhna has been booked under various sections of the BNS.

Two Union ministers urge Tata Trusts to resolve rift

Shah, Nirmala's intervention reflects anxiety over stability at $180-bn empire

BOARDROOM DISPUTE

- **Internal power struggle:** Tata Trusts split over board seats, strategy, and Shapoorji Pallonji's exit.
- **Key players**: N Chandrasekaran (Tata Sons), Noel Tata (Tata Trusts).
- **Echoes of 2016 crisis**: Fears of repeat of Cyrus Mistry ouster and legal battles.
- **High stakes:** Tata Trusts owns 66% of Tata Sons, which controls 30+ companies and unresolved tensions could affect investor confidence and long-term leadership planning

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, REUTERS

Two senior Union ministers have, in an uncommon intervention, urged the Tata Group's charity arm to resolve internal boardroom disputes to ensure stability at the sprawling $180-billion business empire it controls, sources told Reuters on Wednesday.

The discord within Tata Trusts, a year after the death of family patriarch Ratan Tata, has raised fears of a repeat of a bitter 2016 public spat between the charity and Tata Sons, which tarnished the reputation of India's most storied group.

Tata Trusts owns a 66% stake in Tata Sons, giving it power over major strategic decisions. Tata Sons, in turn, oversees 30 firms ranging from consumer goods and automobiles to airlines, including the likes of Jaguar Land Rover, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, and Air India.

The disagreement within Tata Trusts in recent weeks concerns which of its trustees should sit on the Tata Sons board, the general business direction taken by the group, and how to manage the planned exit of minority shareholder Shapoorji Pallonji, say two industry sources familiar with the matter.

The two Union ministers met Tata Sons Chair N Chandrasekaran and Tata Trusts head Noel Tata in New Delhi on Tuesday to discuss the matter and seek a swift resolution of the disputes, one of the industry sources and a government official said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was one of the ministers present at the rare direct government intervention, said those sources.

The other senior government official was reportedly Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah.

"The government wants them to resolve the issues and restore stability," said the government official familiar with Tuesday's discussions. The sources declined to be named as the matter is confidential.

Tata Trusts and Tata Sons have not commented publicly on the matter, which has been widely reported on. Neither responded to Reuters' requests for comment.

The Finance and Home Ministries did not respond to requests for comment.

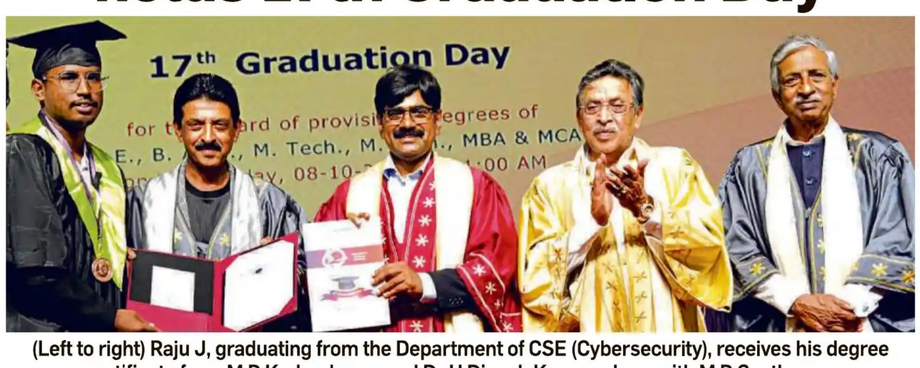
Unceremonious exit

In the 2016 spat, Tata Sons chair Cyrus Mistry was unceremoniously ousted following disagreements with Tata Trusts, triggering legal battles. Mistry died in 2022 but his family's firm, Shapoorji Pallonji, still owns an 18% stake in Tata Sons.

One of the main current disagreements among Tata Trusts' trustees concerns how Shapoorji's long-delayed plan to part ways with the Tatas will be executed and affect the conglomerate, said one of the industry sources.

Shapoorji Pallonji did not respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Ramaiah Institute of Technology holds 17th Graduation Day



(Left to right) Raju J, graduating from the Department of CSE (Cybersecurity), receives his degree certificate from M R Kodandaram and Dr U Dinesh Kumar, along with M R Seetharam and M R Sampangiramaiah.

Ramaiah Institute of Technology (RIT) held its 17th Graduation Day yesterday. Degrees were awarded to B.E., B.Arch., M.Tech., M.Arch., MBA and MCA students. As many as 1,278 under-graduate students from 18 departments and 363 post-graduate students received their degree certificate.

Dr U Dinesh Kumar, Director-in-Charge, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), was the chief guest. Gokula Education Foundation (GEF) Chairman Dr M R Seetharam, M R Janakiram, Vice Chairman M R Anandaram, Secretary M R Sampangiramaiah, Chief Executive (Engineering & General Sciences) Dr Parswanath H V and Chief Academic Advisor (Engineering & General Sciences) Dr Karisiddappa, along with RIT's Director M R Kodandaram and Principal Dr N V R Naidu attended the event.

Dr Naidu welcomed the gathering. Dr Dinesh Kumar, in his address, said, "Without natural intelligence, artificial intelligence is nothing. Develop love and compassion and acquire wisdom by yourself. You have the potential to become a Ramanujam, Steve Jobs or Albert Einstein".

Dr Seetharam said the institute has been serving the State and country for the past 64 years, emphasising its long-standing commitment to education and societal contribution. He stated that teachers are the strength of the institute, recognising their crucial role in shaping the minds and futures of students. Students, he said, are ambassadors of the institute, encouraging them to make a positive impact wherever they go and to help society in meaningful ways.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Mother of Guj youth in Ukraine custody seeks help from PM

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

"The last time I spoke to my son was about three months ago," said Hasinaben Majothi, the mother of the 22-year-old who reportedly surrendered to Ukrainian forces three days after fighting for the Russian military in the Russia-Ukraine war.

Hasinaben told *DH* that she only came to know about her son's whereabouts on Tuesday evening from news reports.

She requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel to intervene and bring her only son back home.

The Gujarat Police, which met Hasinaben to look into the events leading to her son Sahil ending up in the Ukrainian army's custody, said Sahil was indeed arrested in a narcotics case in Russia and was jailed by the local court.

The family had filed an appeal, which was pending.

"Sahil had gone to Russia to study sometime in November last year. He also started a part-time job as a courier-delivery person. His mother claimed Sahil was tricked into drug-peddling and was arrested," two police officials who met the family told *DH*.

Sahil was arrested in the drug case in April this year, and had been in jail since then.

Sahil

Meanwhile, according to the police, the family received several calls claiming Sahil would be released if a certain amount was paid. The police suspect they were scamsters trying to exploit the family's situation.

Sahil's maternal uncle Abdul Ibrahim told reporters that the family migrated to Morbi about two decades ago to live with her parents following her separation. The family was originally from Rajasthan's Pali district.

Sahil reportedly enlisted in the Russian Army to avoid prison and surrendered within three days.

The Ukrainian military on Tuesday released a video of Sahil in which he was heard saying, "I didn't want to stay in prison, so I signed a contract. But I wanted to get out of there."

'Sent to frontlines'

It is reported that he was sent to the frontlines after undergoing 16 days of training.

"I came across a Ukrainian trench position about 2-3 km away. I immediately put down my rifle and said I didn't want to fight. I needed help. I don't want to go back to Russia," he said in the video.

The Union Ministry of External Affairs only last month called upon Russia to repatriate 27 Indian citizens reported to be serving in the Russian army.

There has been no official word from the external affairs ministry so far, but sources said the Indian embassy in Kyiv was ascertaining the veracity of the report and that it has not received any formal communication from Ukrainian authorities on the matter.

There have been reports that some Indians on student and business visas were forced into joining Russian military units deployed on the frontlines of the war in Ukraine.

In final note, Haryana cop cites 'mental harassment' by officers

CHANDIGARH, PTI: A day after senior Haryana Police officer Y Puran Kumar allegedly took his life at his Chandigarh residence, police on Wednesday said they are conducting investigations to ascertain what drove him to take the extreme step.

Meanwhile, sources said in his alleged eight-page typed and signed suicide note, Kumar spoke about various issues he faced during his career. A combination of various factors could have driven him to take the extreme step, they said.

The sources also said that the deceased mentioned being subjected to "mental harassment" by some officers.

Y Puran Kumar (52), a 2001-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, was found dead in his Chandigarh residence on Tuesday. The deceased officer's wife, Amneet P Kumar, a senior bureaucrat, arrived here from Japan on Wednesday, where she had gone as part of an official delegation.

Senior Congress leader Geeta Bhukkal was among those who went to Amneet's official residence to offer her condolences. "What has happened is unfortunate. He should get justice. The government should conduct an in-depth probe. His wife is a senior IAS officer. An IPS officer committing suicide is very concerning. The state has lost an able officer who belonged to the Dalit community," Bhukkal said.

She said Puran had dropped his wife off at the airport and had also talked to her over the phone while she was in Japan.

Y Puran Kumar

Known for his interventions in matters related to the rights of officers, seniority and other issues, Puran was recently posted as the inspector general of the Police Training Centre in Rohtak's Sunaria.

The officer was vocal about issues related to the representation of the Scheduled Castes in police ranks.

During last year's Lok Sabha polls, Puran had also complained to the Haryana chief electoral officer about IAS and IPS officers holding multiple charges.

A few years ago, he had accused a senior police officer of trying to humiliate and harass him on the basis of his caste.

Meanwhile, a liquor contractor got a complaint lodged against a head constable in Rohtak, alleging that a bribe was being sought from him. Head Constable Sushil Kumar was arrested on bribery charges by the Rohtak Police on Monday. He is currently in judicial custody.

The contractor had alleged that the head constable sought a bribe of Rs 2.5 lakh in Puran's name.

(*If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help*)

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885796 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: MESCOM/SEE(Proj)/EE(W)/2025-26/I/175970/2025 Date: 08.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites tender for the work of Supply and fixing of 'C' wedge connectors by removing existing bolted type clamps in 48 nos. of 33/11kV substations in MESCOM jurisdiction vide bid enquiry number **MESCOM/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT372.**

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **09-10-2025**

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/898/25-26 dt: 08.10.2025 **Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Projects)**

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for following works:

SHIVA HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

(1) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3531, Providing water proofing to roofing sheets for turbine hall of Shiva Power House building at Shivasamudram HEP. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 48.76 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 97,600/-. (2)** KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3532, Improvement works to Non-residential buildings at Shimshapura. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 20.22 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 40,500/-.** Last date for receipt of tenders: **14.10.2025 at 17.15 Hrs.** Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer(C) Shivasamudram Colony,** KPCL, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District.

VARAHI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

(1) KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT3517, dtd: 26.09.2025. Construction of Earth pits for Bus PT's and R Phase line CVT's at 220kV ODY of VUGPH. EMD: **Rs. 6,900/-. (2)** KPCL/2025-26/IND2067, dtd: 30.09.2025. Supply of Cables, Conductors, Wires and Cable Jointing materials to VHEP. EMD: **Rs. 46,305/-.** Last date for submission of tender: **14.10.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs** for Sl.No. (1) **& 16.10.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs** for Sl.No. (2). Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer(ODY & PS)Varahi, M: 8277502756 for Sl.No. (1) & Executive Engineer(MSP)H, M: 9448182618 for Sl.No. (2),** KPCL, VHEP, Hosangadi-576282, Kundapura (T), Udupi (D).

BHADRA GENERATING STATION

(1) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3331/Call-2, Dt: 29.09.2025. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Mechanical Over Speed Device for River Bed Unit 1 at BGS. EMD: **Rs. 23,750/-.** Last date for submission of tender: **13.10.2025 up to 16.30 Hrs.** Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer (O&M)Bhadra,** KPCL, B.R. Projects-577115, Bhadravathi Tq., Shivamogga Dist.

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/EE-3/Tender-18/2025-26 Date: 08.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Construction of (SC) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Govt. Pre Metric Boys Hostel at Raybhag, Belagavi District, Construction of Compound Wall and Improvement work in the jurisdiction of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 665/call-2, 579 and 725)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **08.10.2025.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **06.11.2025 and 23.10.2025** respectively. The details may be viewed at above website.
Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.

DIPR/CP/YC/3145/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer-3 KREIS**

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Ref: 1)No: EE/ RNR/UTP/PB-3/2025-26/1557 Dt: 03-10-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP- portal system)

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO KPPP platform shall submit the bid as per Ref in two cover Electronic document system for 10 Works under the head of account 4701 for Tender amount of Rs.41.27 (without GST) crores. The details is as follows: Indent No: 3206, 3207, 3208, 3209, 3210, 3211, 3213, 3214, 3215 & 3216

(1) The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders From:08-10-2025 to 29-10-2025 5-00 pm **(2)** Last Date and time for tender queries before 24-10-2025 Upto 04.00 PM **(3)** Technical Bid will be opened On 30-10-2025 @05-30PM & financial Bid will be opened after the Approval Technical Bid at office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the KPP- portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Dn, Ranebennur.
1033

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MYSORE
(Government of Karnataka- Autonomous Institute)
Irwin Road, Mysore-570001, Karnataka, Telephone No:- +91-0821-2520512 (Off), 2520803 (Fax), Email- mmcrimysore@yahoo.com, website: www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in

No.Equipment/33/2025-26 Date: 06.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Invitation of Tender for the Supply of IVF Equipments to the Cheluvamba Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru.

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the supply of IVF equipments to the Cheluvamba Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **08.10.2025** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **07.11.2025** upto **5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected.

If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/1052/2025-26 **Sd/- Director and Dean** Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysuru

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengalur-560 023, Telephone No. 080-29557023 E-mail:cekhsdrp@gmail.com

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1,2&3/AE-11&8/TND/15th Finance/2025-26/2279 Date: 08.10.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites Short-Term tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in two tender document system in KPP Protal for **15th Finance** Works-Estimated total project cost is **Rs. 17465.80 lakhs, Refer KPP Portal for further details.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **27.10.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **28.10.2025 at 16.01 hrs**.
The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Hence forth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/PC Training/TENDER/CR-05/2025-26 Date: 09.10.2025

Announcement of Tender

Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities for Providing Pre-recruitment residential Police Constable Training to Minority Candidates in Kalaburagi, Bengaluru, Mysore & Belgaum Zones for the year 2025-26. Interested & eligible bidders/institutes can apply through e-Procurement portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	No. of Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**09.10.2025**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 480.00 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs.7.20 Lakhs.**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**16.10.2025 at 11:30 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**10.11.2025 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**12.11.2025 at 11:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**17.11.2025 at 03.00 p.m.**
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902 080-22535912**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/3146/2025-26 **Sd/- Joint Director Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru**

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
Zonal Office, Shivaganga Layout, Keshwapur, Vijayapura Road, Hubballi - 580023. Phone: 0836-2364320
E-mail ID : ceehbl.hescom@gmail.com
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಹುವಿಸಕಂನಿ/ವ್ಯನಿ/ಪ್ರವ್ಯ(ಆ&ಮಾಸಂಅ)/ಸಸಾಸ/ಕಿಸ/ಪಿಎಲ್‌ಒ672/18-19/2025-26/14276-77 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08-10-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Chief Engineer (Electy.), O & M Zone, HESCOM, Hubballi invites following Service Tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Type of Services

For awarding Feeder Franchisees to feeders, of **Sirsi Circle in Uttar Kannada District.**
Targod, Bisalkoppa, Chipagi, Malagaon, Vaddala, Bankanala, Ramapura, Santolli, Boranagudda, Ummadi, Isluru, Dasanakoppa, Dodnalli, Devanahalli, Sampakanda, Salkani, Hulekal, Vanalli, Dhorangiri, Banavasi, Bhashi, Tigani, Sugavi, Andagi, Bachgaon, Bachanaki, Amadalli, Siddar, ITI Road Kinnar, Kerawadi, Shirawada, Industrial, Sadashivagad, Majali, Asnoti, Halaga, Honkon, Kurnipet, Rural Kadra, Kadasolli, Agragon, Belekeri, Vadafone, Tonka, Manki, Devaragadde, Kota, MankiTown, Koppa, Ballor, Banasale, Salkod, Kadle, Chandavar, Kelaginuur, Idagunji, Chittar, Hamakki, Adikekuli, Hadinabal, Mavinakurva, Subramanya, Karki, Balkur, Magod, Left, Right, Colony, Upponi, Madangeri, Tadadi, Katagal, Mirjan, Hegade, Chittaragi, Murooru, Kallabbe, Santeguli, Ullurmatha, Hodake Shirur, Koojalli, Valagalli, Dhareshwar, Bada, Masur, Gokarna, Bijjur, OOM Beach, Bankikodla, Gangavali, Alwekode, Belake, Marukere, Urbal BF-1, Bandikashi, Shirali, Murdeshwar, Koppa, Bailur, Neerakantha, Tenginagundi, SemiUrban, Jali, Industrial BF-7 (Sagar Road).

- For further details please visit the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
- For any clarification please contact this office during office hours.

DIPR/Dharwad/742/Adverto/2025-26 **Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.), O & M Zone, HESCOM, Hubballi.**

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

In court, an ugly show of intolerance

A lawyer's attempt to throw a shoe at the Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, inside a courtroom when the court was in session, marks a new low in professional and personal conduct. The assailant is not an immature young man with a grudge, or a publicity seeker, but a 71-year-old lawyer and member of the Bar Council of India. He should be considered ideologically driven because he was heard shouting that India would not tolerate any disrespect to Sanatan Dharma. He was ostensibly referring to the CJI's recent remarks in a case seeking restoration of a Lord Vishnu idol in the Khajuraho temple complex in Madhya Pradesh. The CJI had dismissed the plea and told the petitioner to "go and ask the deity himself to do something."

The remark was interpreted as a slight of the deity, triggering some protests, and the lawyer decided to deliver his brand of punishment. It is difficult to imagine how the deity is slighted or how Sanatan Dharma is involved when the CJI was merely pointing out that the plea had no legal grounding and did not warrant the Court's intervention. Advising someone, seriously or otherwise, to appeal to god on matters where legal and other remedies are not available cannot be seen as a slight of god. It is within the rights of the CJI – as a judge and as a citizen – to make such a statement, and he can't be legally or constitutionally faulted for it. He also clarified that he respected all religions. Misinterpretation of the statement and attribution of false intent to it led to the controversy and the ugly show of protest in the courtroom, which also signifies a growing intolerance that is vitiating society.

The attempted assault on the CJI insults the judiciary and exposes a vitiated social landscape

Such intolerance does not accept even a judicial decision if it is considered as conflicting with faith. It questions the rule of law and denigrates its highest symbol. It expresses itself in various ways: as rejection of judicial decisions, lynching of people, or resorting to bulldozer justice. The throwing of the shoe was an act of instant and false justice, wrapped in hatred. Judges have been criticised and attacked in other ways too, over the verdicts they have delivered. There is also an assumption that Sanatan Dharma is beyond criticism. India's polity and society are rooted in the Constitution and not Sanatan Dharma. Justice Gavai should be lauded for remaining calm. Prime Minister Narendra Modi did well to condemn the attack, which elicited similar disapproval from across the country.

Tenant farmers and floods of despair

Karnataka's Bhima River basin, spanning Kalaburagi, Yadgir, and Bidar districts, has become a grim reminder of the extremes that define the state's agrarian distress. In this region, floods and droughts are recurring realities, destroying crops, deepening debt, and pushing farmers to despair. The recent floods have again exposed the human and ecological cost of decades of neglect in water management. Government data shows more than 3.5 lakh farmers in Kalaburagi district alone have been affected this year. Over 80% of them are tenant cultivators who lease land annually at high rents. Having invested heavily in crops like tur and cotton, they now face mounting debt and uncertainty. Since the land titles are not in their names, they are ineligible for government compensation. The despair is evident: official figures confirm 25 farmer suicides since April, a tragic reflection of a broken system.

Ironically, the same region that reels under floods during the monsoon turns parched in summer. The core of the problem lies in the absence of adequate water storage and distribution infrastructure. The dams across Kalaburagi, Yadgir, and Bidar together hold just 24.7 tmc ft, while over 1,000 tmc ft of water flowed through the Bhima this year without being stored. Projects to lift water from the Bhima to fill lakes in Afzalpur and Aland remain incomplete, and the region continues to lack sub-canals and barrages that could make irrigation equitable and reliable. District-in-charge Minister Priyank Kharge has alleged that Maharashtra's construction of illegal dams upstream and the sudden release of water without prior notification have worsened the flood situation in Karnataka. Experts, however, point out that while inter-state coordination is essential, the state must also invest in expanding storage capacity and reviving existing lakes to harvest monsoon flows.

Farmers in the Bhima basin battle rising debts and the fallout of flawed water management practices

The ecological cost of this neglect is equally grave. Repeated flooding erodes fertile topsoil, silts riverbeds, and disrupts the natural riverine ecosystem. Standing water also raises soil salinity levels in low-lying areas, degrading agricultural productivity over time. Changing rainfall patterns linked to climate change are magnifying these challenges. Adding to the distress, thousands of landless and tenant farmers from flood-hit villages have migrated to cities in search of work. The government must ensure comprehensive relief and rehabilitation measures, including mental health counselling for the displaced. The crisis demands long-term planning across the basin. This includes fast-tracking irrigation and water storage projects, creating an inter-state coordination mechanism, and providing compensation to tenant farmers. Without systemic reform, the Bhima basin will remain trapped in a vicious cycle, pushing its farmers deeper into loss and despair.

WHEN NUMBERS DON'T COUNT

NIRF risks promoting reputation over merit

The rankings have compromised on core objectives, now reward perceived quality and statistical showmanship

YUSUF AKHTER AND NAVNEET SHARMA

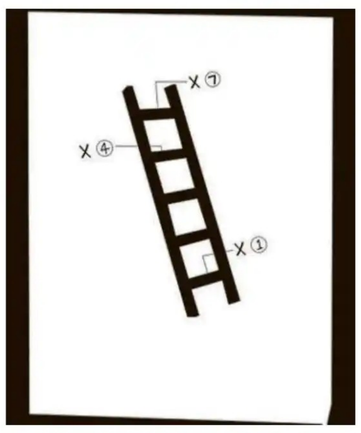
When the Government of India launched the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2015, it did so with a noble promise: to build a fair, transparent, and indigenous alternative to global university rankings. For years, Indian institutions had suffered in the QS and Times Higher Education tables, not because they lacked academic strength, but because those rankings privileged international visibility, foreign faculty, and reputation surveys. NIRF was meant to change the narrative. It promised to measure institutions on metrics that reflected Indian realities, rewarding inclusivity, and empowering students, recruiters, and policymakers to make informed choices based on evidence, not elitism.

Nearly a decade later, NIRF has grown into something far more powerful than a ranking list. It now determines who gets research grants, autonomy, student loans, and media mileage. Banks check NIRF scores before funding campuses. Students use it as a shortcut to shortlist colleges. Universities flaunt their ranks on billboards like election slogans. Private colleges, especially, have turned NIRF badges into marketing ammunition. In less than ten years, NIRF has become one of the most influential forces in Indian higher education. But power without accountability is dangerous. What began as a reformist tool is today facing a crisis of credibility. Instead of dismantling academic hierarchies, NIRF is accused of entrenching them. Instead of rewarding genuine quality, it risks incentivising statistical manipulation. Instead of reflecting reality, it may reward those skilled at gaming the system.

NIRF evaluates institutions across five parameters: Teaching, Learning, and Resources (TLR); Research and Professional Practice (RP); Graduation Outcomes (GO); Outreach and Inclusivity (OI); and Perception (PR). On paper, this is comprehensive. In practice, several cracks are now impossible to ignore.

The most problematic metric is Perception. Officially, it carries only 10% weightage. Yet, studies show perception scores correlate up to 85% with overall ranks among the top 100 institutions. That means rankings are echoing reputation rather than recognising real performance. Worse, the process is opaque. Who is surveyed? How many? Are respondents discipline-balanced? No one knows. Unsurprisingly, legacy central institutions like IITs and AIIMS dominate year after year, while high-performing state universities and private entrants struggle to be seen.

The other serious distortion lies in the Research and Professional Practice metric. Nearly one-fifth of a college's score depends on publication and citation data sourced from global databases such as Scopus and Web of Science. This was supposed to boost India's research culture. Instead, it has triggered a dangerous race for quantity over quality. India now ranks second globally in research retractions. Alarmingly, some institutions with high retraction counts have seen their NIRF research scores improve, proof that misconduct is not meaningfully penalised. A recent rule



to deduct marks for retractions was hailed as bold, but enforcement has been arbitrary. Some offenders escaped untouched, while others were disproportionately punished.

Perhaps the biggest irony is that teaching quality, the core mission of universities, barely counts. The TLR metric relies mostly on inputs like faculty strength, faculty-student ratio, and percentage of PhD-qualified staff. These numbers say nothing about classroom experience. Worse, they are easily faked. Institutions have been reported as inflating faculty rosters just before submission. There is no tracking of pedagogy, student satisfaction, curriculum relevance, or mentorship quality. NIRF is measuring infrastructure, not education.

Graduation outcomes, which should be the most important metric for students and parents, is similarly weak. Placement data is often exaggerated. Internships are rebranded as full-time offers. Salaries are padded with hypothetical bonuses. There is no third-party audit. Consider the irony: IIT Madras routinely tops NIRF rankings, yet IIT Bombay remains the most preferred choice among top JEE rankers, simply because its placement network is stronger. If NIRF rankings do not influence real student choices, what purpose do they serve?

The missing trust

Compounding all this is NIRF's blind faith in self-reported data. Institutions upload their own numbers with little verification. Major discrepancies have been found between what institutions report to NIRF, what they submit to accreditation agencies, and what appears on their websites. Definitions are ambiguous. Do adjuncts count as faculty? Are visiting professors included? When ranks determine prestige and funding, the temptation to inflate numbers becomes irresistible. What was meant to ensure accountability now risks legitimising manipulation.

Inclusivity, though part of the framework, is treated with tokenism. The Outreach and Inclusivity score assigns minimal weight to diversity indicators such as gender equity, disability access, or implementation of reservation policies. In a country where access to education remains deeply unequal, superficial acknowledgement is not enough.

The biggest problem, however, is methodological stagnation. Higher education in India has transformed in the last ten years with digital classrooms, hybrid models, and rising entrepreneurship. Yet, NIRF's methodology has remained static. Critical details, such as perception respondent counts, penalty formulas, and data conflict resolution, remain hidden from public view. Without transparency, trust evaporates. So what must change?

The research metrics must reward quality, not quantity. Only peer-reviewed publications in credible journals should count. Self-citations, both individual and institutional, must be excluded. Retraction penalties must be applied uniformly and disclosed publicly. The teaching quality must finally be measured meaningfully. Student feedback, curriculum innovation, competitive exam performance, and start-up outcomes should replace superficial faculty counts. And data integrity must be enforced through independent audits. The proposed 'One Nation, One Data' system could be revolutionary, but only if inconsistencies across agencies are eliminated.

The perception surveys must be redesigned scientifically, with transparent sampling and discipline-level separation. Finally, India must rethink its obsession with single-number rankings. Multi-dimensional scorecards or grading bands would allow students, parents, and employers to assign their own priorities instead of blindly trusting a one-size-fits-all hierarchy. Ten years on, NIRF stands at a crossroads. It must choose: evolve into an instrument of truth, or fade into a ceremonial scoreboard. India's academic future may depend on that choice.

(Yusuf teaches biotechnology at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow; Navneet teaches education at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Desi games, timeless joy

Remembering a time when play was simple, inclusive, full of life and cost nothing

K R JAYAPRAKASH RAO

When we were children, some 55-60 years ago, we played what are now known as *desi* games — *gilli-danda*, marbles, and *buguri* or spinning tops. These were games for everyone, for they cost little or nothing. Each had its own charm and tested both body and mind.

Gilli-danda required skill and strength. The player—much like a batsman in cricket—struck the *gilli*, a small piece of wood with tapering ends, using the longer stick, the *danda*. The goal was to hit the *gilli* as far as possible and then repeat the act from where it landed. The player who sent it the farthest was the winner; if an opponent caught the *gilli* mid-air, the striker was 'out'. The game strengthened the arms and legs.

The marble game, on the other hand, tested one's focus and aim. A player used a marble, flicked with the middle finger, to hit a line of marbles placed at a distance. Points were scored based on how many marbles were displaced with each flick. The game sharpened precision and focus—much like archery and shooting.

The game of spinning tops had two levels of mastery. First, one had to wrap a string around the top, release it with force, and catch the spinning top on the palm—not an easy feat, I promise! The second was trickier still: to release the top so it struck another top placed on the ground—either directly or after spinning it on the palm—and its success was judged by the dent it left.

My claim to fame, modest though it may be, is that I excelled in all these *desi* games and was perhaps unbeatable in the *mohalla* where I lived.

Had these been Olympic sports, I daresay I might have had a shot at ending India's medal drought.

These *desi* games were largely male-dominated then; girls had their own set of games — tennikot (or ring), *chowka-bara* (similar to present-day Ludo), *kunte-bille* (hopscotch), skipping rope and kho-kho, which in those days was played only by girls.

The beauty of the *desi* games lay in their inclusiveness. Children from every background—rich or poor, upper or lower caste, regardless of religion—played together. There were no barriers.

Sadly, these games have vanished from our parks and streets, replaced by screens and smartphones. The new addictions may offer excitement, but they come at the cost of physical play and social bonding.

Even today, when I walk past parks, open spaces or empty grounds, I feel a pang of nostalgia. I still have the urge to play a round of *gilli-danda* or spin a top. But alas, there are few takers now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meticulous planning imperative to manage crowds

Apropos 'VIP privilege must not hurt devotees' (Oct 8), with the annual darshan of Goddess Hasanamba at Hassan approaching during Deepavali, there is an impending danger of large crowds overwhelming the safety arrangements, similar to the recent series of incidents in the country. The last stampede occurred in Karur, Tamil Nadu, during a political rally organised by Tamil actor and TVK chief Vijay, resulting in a heavy loss of life. Given the experience from previous years, the religious mela at Hassan attracts an increasing number of devotees annually. With over 25 lakh devotees expected to visit the temple this year, chaos is to be expected and the authorities concerned must be prepared.
M Basavaraj, Davangere

Let the name be

In the past two days, we have heard two proposals to change the name of 'Namma Metro'. With great respect to Valmiki Maharshi and Basavanna, changing the name is unwarranted and may spark unnecessary controversy. 'Namma Metro' is a unique name that gives a sense of belongingness, and no other metro in the world has a similar name for a public utility. It should be left unchanged, especially since it promotes our state language, Kannada.
Krishna Kumar, Bengaluru

Data is important

This refers to 'Poor response from Lingayats, Vokkaligas worries caste leaders' (Oct 6). The main reason why the Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities are not interested in the survey is that they feel unheard and unrecognised by the government. In the interest of the sanctity of data as well as policy effectiveness, the government should educate and encourage all citizens to participate in the survey.
Nova Daniel S, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The PM inaugurated Navi Mumbai airport. He said that the airport was made by him. Every project requires the collective efforts of many stakeholders – successive governments, labourers, and civic authorities. But he does not give credit to anybody but himself. None from the Opposition was invited for the inauguration...

Anand Dubey, Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson

No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself or get all the credit for doing it.

Andrew Carnegie

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

In JNU, RSS eyes a legacy reversal

Attempts at the ideological takeover continue to unfold, threatening the university's culture of democratic dissent

JANAKI NAIR

By organising a path sanchalan composed of a couple of hundred men marching with their lathis in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), the RSS publicly declared its 'victory' stake on Vijayadashami earlier this week. For long, JNU and its well-respected intellectual traditions, its robust student activism, and its carefully nurtured culture of debate and discussion have been targeted by the BJP, its student wing the ABVP, and, of course, the RSS.

A real opportunity to 'conquer' what was/is seen as India's most important (intellectual) Marxist redoubt presented itself with the appointment of Prof Jagadesh Kumar Mamidala as the university's vice chancellor in February 2016. What was at first a democratic competition for students' hearts and minds soon became a war by the administration against those who were increasingly labelled as 'anti-national' or 'urban naxal' for daring to question and challenge the government.

The rest, as we know, is history. Faculty and students in the university pushed back, with great creativity and verve, against the onslaught on JNU's culture of teaching and learning. Its reputation was severely maligned and damaged, and its faculty and student body were brought under many forms of scrutiny and surveillance. Faculty and students alike were targeted with cases and enquiries that dragged on for years, humiliating and punishing them even though the university administration entertained no hope of winning. The process is the punishment in Naya Bharat.

Neo-nationalism reached a feverish pitch: JNU became the first central university to install a wall of (war) martyrs. Visits and talks by retired and serving military personnel became frequent, and the vice chancellor, in 2017, even requested a tank to be stationed on campus, to 'instil' nationalism and to remind the students of sacrifices made by the soldiers. No tank rolled in, but the shape of the university began to change quite literally with the establishment of courses in engineering and management.

A change of character

The RSS engaged in a form of institutional capture, since it possessed neither the credentials nor the breadth of vision to establish a 'right' wing version of JNU, though that may have been its original goal. The sight of men solemnly marching to a brassy band, while being showered with petals by supporters on the campus, has served as a powerful sign of the legacy reversal that is being pursued as the RSS exerts more power and control over the university's intellectual assets.

Since its inception, JNU has been a residential university with a difference. Partly since its student body enjoyed a larger-than-usual role in determining institutional life, a true alternative to some aspects of life outside the university was imagined and has been sustained over the last half a century.

Two significant achievements speak of the truly alternative values the university has managed to sustain and protect over the decades. The first is the resetting of gender hierarchies, rare and even unimaginable in a society that has been deeply scarred by misogyny, violence against women, and harassment of women in daily and academic life. The JNU campus has enabled female students to feel relatively freer in their daily lives and academic transactions, within and beyond the classroom, in hostels and in public spaces. JNU has paid a price for this freedom, since it has long had to live with the backlash against this achievement, in earning the reputation of being too 'permissive'.

Like many campuses across India, caste/class/regional and ethnic differences are dissolved, as women enjoy forms of respect that are rarely accorded to them outside. Universities such as JNU and the University of Delhi have formulated policies and constituted mechanisms to prevent and redress complaints of sexual harassment.

The unusually high-level participation of the student body in the conduct of student elections through a widely acclaimed constitutional process has kept JNU relatively free of the kinds of violent, money-driven election processes that have become the norm in most universities in the city of Delhi, as well as the country. A rare degree of democratic civility marks student life on the campus, where discussion and debate, even if it is sometimes tediously long, rather than violence in word or deed, govern student interactions.

All this stands to change, even be reversed, as forms of hyper masculinity, so familiar to us in all other aspects of Indian public life, appear to assert themselves, as in the RSS path sanchalan.

(The writer is a retired professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Carnival and calamity: Bengal's South-North fault line

DATELINE Kolkata

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK

As the clock struck 4 pm on October 5, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee arrived at Kolkata's iconic Indira Gandhi Sarani – still known as Red Road, although the boulevard was renamed in 1985. She inaugurated the annual Durga Puja carnival, standing on the podium for a couple of hours as award-winning idols of the goddess rolled past, heading towards Babu Ghat for immersion in the Hooghly. The spectacle — a medley of songs, dances and the beats of *dhaks* and *dhols* —showcased Bengal's cultural heritage at its best.

When Mamata, joined by several film stars and cultural luminaries, was presiding over the grandiose ceremony marking the end of the Durga Puja festivities in the 'City of Joy', the rain-ravaged northern districts of West Bengal were grappling with grief. At least 20 people, including several children, had been confirmed dead after overnight thunderstorms and torrential rain on October 4 and 5 triggered multiple landslides in Darjeeling and Mirik. Overflowing rivers, swollen by rainwater and inflows gushing from neighbouring Bhutan and Sikkim, submerged vast swathes of land, cutting off roads and railway tracks.

Though the chief minister monitored the situation from the state secretariat since the early hours of October 5, she left Kolkata to visit the affected northern districts only the next day. The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party criticised the delay, alleging she stayed back to attend the Red Road carnival -- an annual event her Trinamool Congress government introduced in 2016. "This is yet another example of the TMC government's stepmotherly approach to North Bengal," said Suvendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly. State BJP president Samik Bhattacharya echoed him, "North Bengal has only received neglect and deprivation during the TMC's rule in the past 14 years."

With assembly elections just months away, the disaster in North Bengal, where death toll went up to 32 by October 7, has undoubtedly given the BJP an opportunity to whip up the discontent which stems from a deep-seated perception of socio-political and economic deprivation of the region. The saffron party has been trying to turn the region into a stronghold over the past few years and hence will, of course, seek to channel the anger of the distressed people against the ruling TMC.

North Bengal has 54 of the 294 assembly constituencies and eight of the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies of the state. Thirty-three of the 77 seats the BJP won in 2021 to emerge as the principal challenger to the TMC came from the region, which also gave the party half of the 12 seats it won in the 2024 parliamentary elections. The party had won seven Lok Sabha seats from the northern districts and 11 others from the rest of the state in 2019. The winning margins in several North Bengal parliamentary constituencies, where the BJP won, shrank in 2024.

A few weeks after the LS elections, then-state BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar suggested clubbing North Bengal's eight districts with the Northeastern region. Majumdar, now Union Minister of State for the Development of the Northeastern Region, even sent a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office, underlining that such a move would ensure that North Bengal would get a fair share of funds allocated for implementation of the central government's schemes.

Nishikant Dubey, a BJP MP from Jharkhand, suggested that the border districts of Malda and Murshidabad in North Bengal should be turned into a Union Territory so that the central government could more effectively check illegal infiltration from neighbouring Bangladesh. Two MLAs and an MP of the BJP – all from North Bengal – made similar suggestions around the same time but were rebuffed by their colleagues within the party itself.

Ananta Maharaj, a Rajya Sabha member aligned with the BJP, argued that the demand for the Greater Cooch Behar state should be met first. Bishnu Prasad Sharma, a BJP MLA from Kurseong in Darjeeling, also opposed the demand for carving out a separate state or a UT. The BJP's ally, the Gorkha National Liberation Front, reacted to the proposal mooted by Majumdar and Dubey by asking the saffron party to first clear its stand on the long-pending demand for a separate state of 'Gorkhaland'.

The region's ethnic communities fear that any move to separate North Bengal from the rest of West Bengal would undermine their respective struggles for autonomous homelands and the right to self-determination. The TMC, of course, called it an "evil plan" drawn up by the BJP for its vested political interests. Adhikari later clarified that the BJP never supported any proposal for the division of West Bengal. A resolution was also unanimously passed in the state assembly opposing any such move.

"The BJP is again resorting to the North Bengal versus South Bengal narrative, hoping to polarise people ahead of elections. Let us be clear: Bengal is one – emotionally, culturally, and politically," Mamata, the TMC supremo, said recently, countering the saffron party's criticism against her and her party's government in the wake of the disaster in the region.

With its leaders themselves facing protests from people in the calamity-hit region, the BJP is likely to continue blaming the TMC for the lack of development in North Bengal, but the fear of a strong backlash from the Gorkhas and Koch-Rajbanshis in the region, as well as in South Bengal, will keep it from going overboard with the demand for a separate state or a UT.

DHNS

As China struggles with economic discontent, Internet censors are silencing those who voice doubts about work, marriage, or simply sigh too loudly online

LILY KUO

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Cheer up, or else. China cracks down on the haters, cynics

China's censors are moving to stamp out more than just political dissent online. Now, they are targeting the public mood itself—punishing bloggers and influencers whose weary posts are resonating widely in a country where optimism is fraying.

Authorities have punished two bloggers who advocated for a life of less work and less pressure; an influencer who said that it made financial sense not to marry and have children; and a commentator known for bluntly observing that China still lags behind Western countries in terms of quality of life.

These supposed cynics and sceptics, two of whom had tens of millions of followers, have had their accounts suspended or banned in recent weeks as China's internet regulator conducts a new clean-up of Chinese social media. The two-month campaign, launched by the Cyberspace Administration of China in late September, is aimed at purging content that incites "excessively pessimistic sentiment" and panic or promotes defeatist ideas such as "hard work is useless," according to a notice from the agency.

"In reality, we all experience fatigue and anxiety as a result of work and life, but these real emotions deserve respect and should not be deliberately amplified for traffic. The internet is not a dumping ground for negativity," China's state broadcaster CCTV said in an editorial about the campaign.

Around the world, officials debate how to keep social media from stoking outrage and polarization that could spill over into real-world violence or harm. The internet regulator in China has framed its campaign in similar terms, expressing concern about messages that stoke divisions based on gender or other group identities or livestreaming content that glorifies self-harm and violence.

But China's crackdown carries a distinctly political undercurrent. It demonstrates the concern among its leadership about the spread of malaise as the country grapples with economic uncertainty, a volatile rivalry with the United States and growing disenchantment among young people.

In recent years, some young people have opted out of the rat race in favour of a minimal life of "lying flat" or given up on goals altogether and "letting it rot." The accounts of two bloggers known for promoting a minimal "lying flat" lifestyle were blocked from adding followers late last month.

Beijing is concerned that such pessimism doesn't just discourage citizens from being productive members of society. It could turn into criticism of the ruling Communist Party.

"The root cause is deteriorating economic and social prospects for many Chinese, which has led to what for any country would be a natural social response — the expression of anxiety and misgiving," said David Bandurski, the director of the China Media Project, a research group.

"Such sentiment, the leadership worries, might be infectious," Bandurski said.

Local governments and social media platforms have jumped into action to carry out the regulator's orders.

In the city of Zhengzhou in central China, officials said two social media account owners were investigated for portraying the city in an unflattering light. In Xi'an, the local internet regulator said it punished the holders of five social media accounts for "spreading false information" about housing prices and real estate regulations.

Weibo, a popular microblog, said last week that it suspended more than 1,200 accounts that "spread rumours" about the economy and government welfare programs.

The internet regulator ordered platforms to root out posts that use isolated news events to point to broader social problems, a style of commentary that the authority condemned as "malicious misinterpretation" that fuels cynicism about society.

People in China often use such posts to vent frustration or share their fears and questions. Recent incidents such as food safety scandals at schools had residents questioning the transparency and accountability of government officials. Last year a series of random attacks on civilians, attributed to aggrieved residents seeking "revenge on society," prompted discussion about deep-seated inequality and mental health in China today.

Most recently, internet users fixated on the death of a Chinese actor, Yu Menglong, whose body was found outside a multistory building in Beijing last month. The authorities, based on a statement from Yu's mother, said he had fallen accidentally. But in the days after, Chinese platforms were awash with unproven theories that authorities had covered up foul play or that it had been suicide.

His death fuelled questions about power and corruption in the entertainment industry, as well as about transparency on the part of the police. Weibo limited discussion of Yu and suspended more than 1,500 accounts for posting about him.

Chinese state media have also sought to cast the online clean-up as an effort to target those who are peddling despair for clicks.

The state broadcaster CCTV warned about posts that convey a bleak picture of life in China: "Parents have unfilial children. Men are surrounded by materialistic women. Women are trapped by bad men who cheat. The workplace is full of unmotivated young people." Such stories, it warned, were the work of "emotional predators" feeding the gloomiest stories to draw attention.

But official efforts to curb content that profits from despair may be silencing genuine expressions of frustration.

"The official message of positivity is contrasted by an economic reality that is just starkly different compared with the last decades," said Katja Drinhausen, head of Chinese politics and society at the Mercator Institute for China Studies. "It will not be enough to keep online negative emotions in check."

Many people complain about stagnant wages or, more recently, whether China's introduction of a new type of work visa for science and engineering students will eventually mean fewer jobs for Chinese citizens. (A record 12.2 million new graduates are entering the job market this year, at a time when youth unemployment remains stubbornly high.) The government's efforts to bolster confidence — by expanding its threadbare social safety net, giving subsidies to families with children and offering a consumer trade-in program — have had limited effect.

The social media accounts of Hu Chenfeng, an auto repairman turned influencer whose videos have highlighted poverty and inequality in China, have been removed from several platforms. Propaganda officials in Zhejiang have accused him of "worshipping the West."

He is most famous for coining a shorthand for class divides in China — Apple users versus Android users — that in his view highlights the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

"'Android' is now an adjective," he said in one video. "For example, an 'Android computer' means your computer is very low-end. An 'Android house' means that the house has poor soundproofing, a bad layout and poor lighting."

One other influencer, Zhang Xuefeng, a former tutor, was known for arguing that students from poor families stood little chance of breaking into elite professions like finance or medicine without the right social or political connections.

The crackdown is also an effort to rein in the influence of China's largest social media platforms. In September, the regulator summoned representatives from several popular platforms for content violations.

The People's Daily, the Chinese Communist Party's official mouthpiece, said in an editorial that the campaign made clear that platforms could no longer let pessimism proliferate unchecked. "The bugle has been sounded and all parties should act accordingly," it said.

The New York Times

GST 2.0 and the states' squeeze

TARU SAIGAL, SREEDEVI R S, AND MAYA K

The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 was considered a reform that would integrate the fragmented tax system of India, enhance operational efficiency, and improve revenue generation eventually. The Centre, aware of the states' fears of losing their finances, promised states five years of guarantee or 14% growth in their revenue as compensation, backed by a special cess. This promise ran out in June 2022. As GST 2.0 is underway, the pressing question is whether states have become more vulnerable—especially in financing welfare, health, and education.

The intent of GST was laudable. By combining all indirect taxes into a single system, it aimed to minimise compliance costs, create a common market, and eliminate the cascading effect. For states, the main attraction was the compensation mechanism, which ensured their revenues would not fall during the transition. In the early years, the mechanism functioned as a fiscal cushion. From 2018-2019 to 2022-2023, states' GST revenues, with compensation, were about Rs 37.7 lakh crore; of this, Rs 8.5 lakh crore was on account of compensation. Without this safety net, many states would not have been able to pay even their daily costs.

That cushion is gone. Ministry of Finance data showed that 25 states recorded GST revenue growth of 14% or more over the preceding year in July 2022, the first full month after the phase-out of compensation. However, this headline number concealed a weakness. Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar failed to meet the benchmark owing to structural weaknesses. According to a Reserve Bank of India report, six states—Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand, Delhi, and Puducherry—were classified as "particularly vulnerable," as compensation contributed over a tenth of their tax revenue.

The structure of GST itself has widened disparities. Because it is a destination-based tax, it benefits consumption-heavy states. Maharashtra and Gujarat -- which are manufacturing states with strong bases – have registered above-average growth. The growth in Maharashtra' gross GST revenue in FY2024-25 was 15.6% --well over the national average of 9.7%. On the other hand, consumption states are still struggling. However, the Northeastern states posted astonishing compound annual growth of 27.5% in GST revenues since 2017 (over a low base). Results are not the same, so there is no level playing field.

The GST Council activities further complicate the matters-- the smaller states have often complained of being excluded from decision-making, although it was intended as an instrument of cooperative federalism. Delays in settlement of dues and refunds have eroded trust. States that rely on quick income for social spending experience the greatest pain. Recent cuts in GST rates may help the political class, but they have hit the states' coffers hard. Kerala alone estimates yearly losses of Rs 8,000–10,000 crore, while some states together predict aggregate losses of Rs 1.5–2 lakh crore for the country.

The strain is most visible in welfare spending. States, as primary providers of education, healthcare, nutrition, and rural development, are expected to maintain social sector outlays at around 2% of Gross State Domestic Product—roughly Rs 6.4 lakh crore in FY2026, according to CRISIL Ratings. But this sustained push risks widening revenue deficits, leaving little room for capital expenditure. For fiscally constrained states like Punjab and Kerala, debt rises even as development slows.

The Centre points to buoyant GST collections, which touched record highs in 2024 and grew about 12% annually between 2018 and 2023, faster than nominal GDP. Yet, excluding compensation, states' GST growth slips to 11–12%, weaker for poorer, consumption-light states. This asymmetry makes the end of compensation destabilising: richer states ride the buoyancy, weaker ones are exposed.

The way forward requires acknowledging the uneven fiscal squeeze and providing targeted support for weaker states. A partial compensation formula tied to welfare spending, higher state shares in divisible taxes, and greater transparency and consensus in the GST Council are essential.

GST was meant to unify India's tax system, not fragment federalism. If GST 2.0 forces welfare and development cuts, it will undermine inclusive growth. For tax reform to succeed, it must deliver efficiency, fairness, and trust—the spirit of the original promise that cannot now be abandoned.

(The writers are assistant professors of economics at Christ University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

Self disclosure of wealth: Govt's new tax scheme

New Delhi, October 8
The Government today announced a scheme through a Presidential ordinance for voluntary disclosure of undisclosed income and wealth for which tax would be payable "on a reasonable basis." A Finance Ministry press note said the scheme offers an opportunity to those who have evaded tax in the past, to declare their undisclosed income and wealth, pay tax thereon on "reasonable basis" and return to "the path of civic responsibility in future."

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

West lifting embargo against Yugoslavia

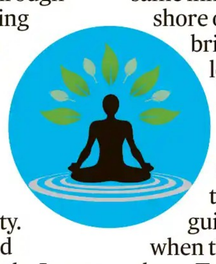
Belgrade, Oct 8 (AFP & Reuters)
Yugoslavs saw the first dividends of the demise of the Milosevic era today as aid from the West began to trickle back following the swearing-in of new President Vojislav Kostunica. The German foreign ministry announced on Saturday that it was freeing up a million euros ($ 870,000) in aid to Yugoslavia. "Germany is giving a signal, through this bilateral plan and as a member of the European Union, of its wish to help the federal democratic republic of Yugoslavia," said a German foreign ministry spokesman.

OASIS | NANDKISHORE

The tale of ways

The human mind is a miracle. It's not just where thoughts arise or plans take shape, it's also the doorway to something far greater, something we often sense but rarely understand. But for this miracle to unfold, the mind needs discipline. It needs sincerity, patience, and the right inner guidance. There are two ways to understand who we are as human beings. One is the outward way of unearthing history, discovering stars, theorising blackholes and dark energy, knowing our own biology the brain, the heart, and how the body works. This is meaningful, but only part of the picture.

The other way is inward: through silence, observation, and meditation. This is the beginning of real spiritual journey. Here, we don't just study the mind, we begin to see through it. Slowly, we touch something deeper and timeless within ourselves. The quest for liberation begins to feel real, not a distant idea, but a deep longing. As we turn within, once chaotic-mind begins to teach us, revealing stillness and clarity. It becomes both student and teacher. But the mind is subtle. It can be tricky. What feels like insight might be illusion. This is why the presence of a living Guru is so essential. A true Guru is not someone to be worshipped blindly, but a guide who has already walked the path, faced the same inner storms, and reached the shore of freedom. Their presence brings light where we feel lost, reminding us through being, not just words, what's truly possible. All ancient medieval or modern tales of seekers finding their ways tell us that finding such a guide has never been easy even when the guru was always walking along. Tale of Krishna and Arjun is one such example. Only in an extreme situation of war he could recognise that incarnation of supreme peace was so near to him always. When our own mind is still unclear, how do we recognise someone who has mastered theirs? Sincere longing, humility, and trust become our compass. When the seeking is genuine, guru appears. Rumi famously said after meeting Shams " what I thought of God before, I met today in a human being."



Unfortunately, current education systems don't encourage inner enquiry. And, we as individuals become decision making adults without knowing Who we are and what we truly seek. That is the reason behind wars and many wrong decisions that prove detrimental to our own environment.

Shah behaving like 'acting prime minister' of country: Mamata

KOLKATA, PTI: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday sharpened her attack against Union Home Minister Amit Shah by alleging that the BJP leader's actions were like those of an 'acting prime minister.'

Speaking to reporters outside the Kolkata airport after her return from flood-ravaged north Bengal, Mamata said she wanted to urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to repose too much faith in Shah, who 'may one day become his Mir Zafar'.

She was referring to the 18th-century military general of Bengal who betrayed Nawab Siraj ud Daulah in the Battle of Plassey and later became the monarch with the help of the British.

The TMC supremo accused the BJP top brass of manipulating the Election Commission into conducting the SIR of electoral rolls in poll-bound states.

The West Bengal chief minister questioned whether the ECI should act at the behest of the BJP or should it act in the interest of the democratic rights and civil rights of the people?

Cough syrup deaths: Drug regulator alerts states on firms flouting rules

India informs WHO about DEG contamination in 3 syrups

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has alerted states that Indian drugmakers were flouting rules as they neither routinely tested medicine ingredients as per set standards before using them to manufacture formulations nor checked the finished products.

Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi wrote to states and Union Territories, informing them that though the Drug Rules made it mandatory for firms to test "each batch or lot" of raw material used in manufacturing and "each batch of final product", the practice was not followed all the time.

The DCGI didn't disclose the names of the guilty companies or when the inspections were carried out. But his letter, dated Tuesday and released on Wednesday, referred to reports of child deaths at Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh.

"During the investigations carried out at manufacturing facilities and in the investigations of the drugs declared as Not of Standard Quality, it was observed that the manufacturers were not carrying out testing of each batch of the excipients/inactive and active pharmaceutical ingredients for verification of compliance with the prescribed standards before using them in the manufacture of formulations," wrote the DCGI.

This came after the death of 20 children at Chhindwara, reportedly after consuming cough syrups contaminated with toxic chemicals.

Health Ministry sources said inspections were carried out at manufacturing units in six states: Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

The CDSCO has also asked states to ensure that manufacturers have a robust vendor qualification system and use raw materials from only reliable, approved vendors.

Production stopped

India on Wednesday informed the World Health Organisation (WHO) that three oral cough syrups — made by firms in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat — had been found contaminated with diethylene glycol (DEG), but had been recalled from the market, and manufacturers had been instructed to stop their production.

"On October 8, WHO received confirmation from the CDSCO that DEG had been detected in at least three oral syrup medicines. These medicines were among those consumed by children in the reported cluster of cases," WHO sources told *DH*.

The CDSCO identified the contaminated products as Coldrif, made by Tamil Nadu's Sresan Pharmaceuticals; Respifresh TR, made by Gujarat's Rednex Pharmaceuticals; and ReLife, made by Gujarat's Shape Pharma Private Ltd.

While Coldrif has 48.6% contamination of DEG, the levels of adulteration in Respifesh and ReLife are 1.34% and 0.616% respectively.

The CDSCO response came a week after the UN health body approached the Union government seeking clarification on reports of children's deaths in MP and Rajasthan, reportedly after consuming contaminated cough syrups.

he UN health body said it approached the Indian authorities on Oct 1 after media reports regarding clusters of paediatric illnesses and deaths in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. These reports describe symptoms consistent with acute renal failure and acute encephalitis syndrome, with suspected links to the use of oral syrup medicines.

The global body contacted the CDSCO for clarification on the deaths' potential links to contaminated medicines and whether the products were exported to other countries.

SAFETY CRACKDOWN

- **Widespread testing lapses:** CDSCO finds drug manufacturers skipping mandatory batch tests for raw materials and final products.
- **Ingredients not verified:** Many firms skipped testing of both active and inactive pharmaceutical ingredients, violating Drug Rules.
- **Multi-state inspections:** Inspections conducted in 6 states including Tamil Nadu, MP, and Himachal Pradesh.
- **Stricter compliance ordered:** States told to ensure pharma firms follow vendor qualification and quality protocols.

Nitish is NDA's CM face: Giriraj

ABHAY KUMAR,
PATNA

Ending months of speculations, Union minister Giriraj Singh on Wednesday said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is the NDA's chief ministerial face in the upcoming Assembly election.

Discounting any differences within the alliance, Giriraj said, "There is no rift within the NDA. Seat-sharing talks are going on in the right direction and a formal announcement in this regard will be made soon."

This is the first time in recent times that a senior BJP leader has openly backed Nitish as the CM face for the ensuing polls, given his poor health condition.

"Instead of looking at any rift within the NDA, you should look at the Mahagatbandhan, where the Congress has said Tejashwi is the CM face of the RJD, not of the Mahagathbandhan. The Opposition remains a divided house where the allies are extracting their pound of flesh in the name of backing Tejashwi as CM," Giriraj told reporters.

Both the NDA and the I.N.D.I.A bloc are stuck in seat-sharing talks with Chirag Paswan in the NDA and the VIP chief Mukesh Sahni in Mahagatbandhan expressing their strong displeasure over being offered fewer seats.

Cryptic message

On Wednesday, another NDA ally—Union Minister and HAM chief Jitan Ram Manjhi—joined the 'unhappy bandwagon' and quoted veteran Hindi poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's poem from 'Rashmi Rathi' wherein he said, "Do nyay agar toh aadha do, parr usme bhi koi baadha ho, toh de do kewal 15 gram, rakho apne dharti tamam" (If you do justice, then give us half. If not, then give us only 15 villages and keep the rest with you).

Manjhi has said he wanted to expand his party's base by contesting half of the 243 seats, but will be happy enough even if he is allotted 15 seats.

Congress finalises 25 names

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress on Wednesday cleared the names of 25 candidates for the Bihar polls while it is waiting for a settlement with RJD on the final tally of seats it will fight as part of the I.N.D.I.A bloc, sources said.

Most of the names cleared were sitting MLAs, while some of the lawmakers are yet to get the green signal owing to a review of their performance pending.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's Central Election Committee headed by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Sources said the Congress had initially sought 70-75 seats but is now willing to settle for 55-60 seats. As of now, RJD and Congress have found common ground on 40 seats while negotiations are going on.

The meeting comes in the midst of intense negotiations between alliance partners. RJD and Left parties are currently holding negotiations.

The deliberations came even as seat-sharing talks with its allies RJD and Left parties are currently on.

BIHAR VOTES

On Tuesday, CPI(ML)L had stepped up pressure on RJD, saying that its options are open if it is not given around 30 seats, up from 19 last time. It also rejected the offer of 19 seats.

CPI(ML)L has already shared a list of around 30 seats it wants to contest.

Sources said CPI leadership also held discussions with the RJD and demanded a couple more seats it had offered. CPI General Secretary D Raja is learnt to have told top RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav that the alliance leader should increase the number of seats from six to at least eight this time.

In 2020 elections, CPI had contested six seats and won two.

EC sets 7-day deadline for voter list mapping in WB

KOLKATA, PTI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday directed officials in West Bengal to expedite the voter list mapping process as part of preparations for the SIR, setting a deadline of seven days to complete the process, an official said.

Nearly 40% of the task remains unfinished, with progress reportedly sluggish in several districts, the official said.

At a review meeting in Kolkata during the day, senior Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti issued clear instructions in this regard to district magistrates, electoral registration officers (EROs), and assistant EROs, excluding officials from the disaster-affected districts of North Bengal, the official said.

2 commandos go missing in Kashmir Op

Massive search underway in Anantnag's Gadool forests

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Security personnel during a search operation to track down terrorists, at Kokernag in Anantnag district, Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday. PTI

Two para commandos of the Indian Army reportedly went missing on Tuesday night during a combing operation in the dense Gadool forests of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, triggering a massive search effort involving aerial reconnaissance, ground troops, and assistance from local communities.

According to official sources, the soldiers were part of a cordon-and-search operation launched late Tuesday based on specific intelligence inputs about terrorists' movement in the area. The operation was hit by heavy rainfall and poor visibility, and contact with the two commandos was lost shortly thereafter. "A large-scale rescue and search effort has been initiated. Local Gujjar and Bakarwal residents, who are familiar with the terrain, have joined the ground teams," an official said. "Choppers and drones are also being used to scan the forested stretches."

On Wednesday, multiple teams searched through thick vegetation and high ridges for the missing commandos.

"The focus right now is to locate soldiers safely," a police official said. "The area remains under a tight cordon, and all possible scenarios are being considered."

The army has maintained that the soldiers may have lost communication due to adverse weather and difficult topography. However, the operation remains on high alert given the area's history of terror activity.

The Gadool region has been a hotspot of counter-terror operations in recent years, with multiple encounters taking place between security forces and heavily armed terrorists. Intelligence officials say the rugged forested belt in south Kashmir—stretching through Kokernag and adjoining hills—has become a tactical hideout for small groups of highly trained foreign militants, particularly those affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

These infiltrated terrorists, often described by security agencies as battle-hardened fighters with experience in cross-border skirmishes, are believed to be equipped with advanced weaponry, night-vision devices, and sophisticated communication tools. Their familiarity with forest warfare allows them to exploit the difficult terrain, using natural cover and weather conditions to their advantage.

TVK moves SC for independent probe into Karur stampede

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Actor Vijay's party, TVK, has filed a plea in the Supreme Court seeking an independent investigation led by a former apex court judge into the Karur stampede, which claimed 41 lives and left scores of others injured.

Vijay

The party challenged the validity of an order passed by the Madras High Court, which directed the setting up of a special investigation team (SIT) headed by senior IPS officer Asra Garg to probe the incident.

The plea contended that despite making an observation that questioned the independence of the police probe into the matter, the high court directed the constitution of an SIT composed solely of three senior officers from the Tamil Nadu Police.

It stated that the petitioner-party, as well as its leader, is prejudiced by the order that appoints an SIT composed solely of officers of the state police, despite the high court expressing its discontent with the independence of the state police and its conduct.

The petitioner claimed that a pre-planned conspiracy by certain miscreants to create trouble at the rally site cannot be ruled out as a cause of the stampede and sought an independent probe.

Meanwhile, BJP leader G S Mani filed a plea in the SC, assailing the high court's order declining to transfer the probe to the CBI, claiming that the state authorities were suspects in the matter owing to their serious lapse resulting in the tragedy.

Zubeen's cop cousin arrested; was with singer at yacht party

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Late singer Zubeen Garg's cousin and Assam Police DSP Sandipan Garg being produced at a court in Guwahati. PTI

In the fifth arrest in connection with singer Zubeen Garg's death, his cousin and Assam Police Service officer Sandipan Garg, who had accompanied him to Singapore, was arrested on Wednesday.

Sandipan was on the yacht when Zubeen died while swimming with his friends and associates.

The nine-member SIT had questioned Sandipan earlier also.

Sources said Sandipan was arrested following inconsistencies in his statement. He was remanded to seven days' custody of the special investigation team (SIT).

He was later in the evening suspended with immediate effect.

Sandipan was arrested a day after Rup Kamal Kalita, an Assamese NRI based in Singapore, deposed before the SIT. Seven other NRIs, who were also summoned by the SIT, are yet to join the investigation.

Police earlier arrested Zubeen's manager Siddharth Sharma, Shyamkanu Mahanta, the organiser of the Northeast India Festival in Singapore, and two of Garg's band members, musician Sekhar Jyoti Goswami and a young singer Amritprabha Mahanta.

Zubeen's wife Garima on Tuesday reiterated her demand to identify the reasons leading to his death. She wanted to know why Zubeen was taken to the sea even as doctors had advised him to stay away from water and fire, as he had a problem with seizures in the past.

Supreme Court lawyer seeks A-G's nod to sue lawyer who attacked CJI

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A Supreme Court advocate has filed an application before Attorney-General R Venkataramani seeking his permission to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against lawyer Rakesh Kishore for the "contemptuous act" of making an unsuccessful attempt to hurl a shoe at Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Monday.

"There is a clear case of scandalising and lowering of the authority of the Supreme Court by interfering and obstructing with the administration of justice by removing his shoe and attempting to hurl it towards the Chief Justice of India during ongoing court proceedings with the shouting of slogans against him," read the plea by Advocate on Record Subhash Chandran K R.

His application contended that it was pertinent to mention that even after the incident, the alleged contemnor continued his derogatory and contemptuous remarks against the Supreme Court and CJI through various media and social-media platforms, where he said that he felt "no remorse" for his actions.

"The conduct and continuous actions of the contemnor are acts of criminal contempt of court, punishable under Section 12 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971," claimed the plea.

Chandran sought the A-G's consent, as mandated under the law, to approach the Supreme Court to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against Kishore, who stood suspended by the Bar Council of India after the incident.

While condemning the incident, the Supreme Court Advocates On-Record Association (SCOARA) has sought a suo motu contempt action against the lawyer as "the act/gesture is a calculated move to scandalise the authority of the Supreme Court".

The 71-year-old Kishore, who made the failed attempt to throw shoes at the CJI, sought to justify his actions by claiming that he was deeply hurt by the remarks made in the Lord Vishnu idol case last month.

"The CJI should think that when he is sitting on such a high constitutional post; he should understand the meaning of 'Milord' and uphold its dignity. You go to Mauritius and say that the country will not run with a bulldozer," he told a news agency.

He said he was deeply hurt as on September 16, the CJI "completely mocked" a PIL filed by an individual in his court.

He explained: "Mockery in the sense that he said, 'Go pray to the idol, ask the idol to restore its own head'."

He claimed his actions were not driven by intoxication or impulse but by "emotional distress".

Brain-eating amoeba victim's father attacks doctor in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A doctor at a government hospital in Kerala's Kozhikode was attacked by the father of a nine-year-old girl who reportedly died due to amoebic meningoencephalitis—a rare brain infection caused by the single-celled organism Naegleria fowleri, also known as the "brain-eating amoeba".

Dr Vipin of the Thamarasery government taluk hospital, in the suburbs of Kozhikode, was attacked on Wednesday. Sanoop, the father of Anaya of Thamraserry, was held by the police in this connection.

According to doctors treating Dr Vipin, he suffered a deep injury and a small fracture on his head. However, there was also no injury to the brain.

Doctors in the district have gone on a lightning strike, staying away from all services except emergency ones, in protest against the government's alleged failure to ensure their protection at hospitals.

Eyewitnesses reported that Sanoop and his two sons arrived at the hospital in the afternoon. He then barged into the doctor's room and attacked him with a machete, screaming that he was responsible for Anaya's death.

He was learnt to be targeting the hospital superintendent. Dr Vipin was not associated with Anaya's treatment. Anaya died on August 14 after collapsing at the Thamaraserry hospital and was being shifted to the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital.

GREEN SHIFT

India's first battery swap station for electric trucks launched

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday inaugurated the country's first battery swapping station for heavy-duty electric trucks.

The facility is an integrated swap-cum-charging station located off NH-44 at Delhi International Cargo Terminal Private Limited (DICT) in village Panchi Gujran in Sonipat, Haryana.

The swappable battery technology allows electric truck batteries to be replaced in about seven minutes, compared with the two hours required for conventional charging.

This innovation is expected to boost logistics efficiency, lower operational costs, and cut down carbon emission.

During the event, Gadkari urged transporters to shift from diesel and petrol to electric and biofuel alternatives, emphasising the cost-saving benefits of cleaner energy.

Highlighting the growing role of alternative energy, Gadkari noted that India is swiftly advancing towards a diesel-free transport future.

Gadkari pointed to successful initiatives where stubble has been used in road construction projects in Nagpur, Maharashtra, and Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, adding that India is working towards producing biofuel from five million tonnes of stubble.

Gadkari also spoke about the development of flex-fuel engines for agricultural equipment and the significant impact of electric vehicle (EV) technology in revolutionising the transport sector.

He noted a 50-60% drop in battery prices over the past few years, making EVs increasingly accessible.

Heavy Industries Minister H D Kumaraswamy, who was also present in the event, described the project as a milestone in India's transition towards clean mobility and a step forward in strengthening the country's leadership in sustainable transport solutions.

Tamil Nadu's wild elephant population on the rise again

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

For the second consecutive year, Tamil Nadu has reported an increase in the number of wild elephants — this time from 3,063 in 2024 to 3,170 in 2025 — in the third synchronised Elephant Census conducted across the state and neighbouring Karnataka.

The synchronised estimation, conducted from May 23 to 25, showed adult elephants accounted for 44% of the population.

"This is consistent with the life history traits of Asian elephants, characterised by a long lifespan and slow reproductive rate," said the survey report.

"The male-to-female sex ratio in Tamil Nadu is approximately 1:1.77, similar to the sex ratio of elephant populations in nearby states of Kerala and Karnataka during the survey in 2024," it added.

Historically, the sex ratio was skewed due to the selective poaching of males; however, recent data suggest a more balanced ratio.

The sex ratio of elephant populations in different forest divisions and elephant reserves exhibits notable variations, which may be attributed to factors such as habitat quality, food availability, and human-elephant conflict.

The survey covered 26 forest divisions, including tiger reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, territorial forest divisions, and a national park.

In all, 2,043 forest department personnel and volunteers took part in the survey, which used three standard methodologies: the block count, line-transect (dung count), and waterhole count.

"The analysis estimated an elephant density of 0.35 per sq km, based on 681 sample blocks covering 3,261 sq km," said Additional Chief Secretary (Environment & Forests) Supriya Sahu.

The Mudumalai Tiger Reserve recorded the highest density at 1.35 per sq km (estimated 325 elephants).

ED raids houses of actors Dulquer & Prithviraj in Kerala, Tamil Nadu

Action follows suspicion that luxury cars were imported via Nepal, Bhutan to evade tax

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Dulquer Salman

Prithviraj Sukumaran

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out raids at the houses of prominent Malayalam actors in Kerala and Tamil Nadu on Wednesday. Raids were carried out at 17 places, including houses of actors Dulquer Salman, Prithviraj Sukumaran, and Amit Chakkalackal.

They followed the Customs Department's recent seizure of imported cars from these actors for allegedly evading customs duty by illegally importing them through Bhutan and carrying out unauthorised foreign-exchange dealings.

In Kerala, the raids were at the houses of actors and some other premises in Kochi, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Kottayam.

Dulquer's residence on the upscale Greams Road in Chennai was searched along with a few locations connected to him in Coimbatore. Raids were also reportedly held at the house of actor Mammootty in connection with the seizure of his son Dulquer's car. Dulquer reached his house in Kochi while the raid was in progress. ED officials were learnt to have collected details of the vehicle purchase from him.

The premises of some vehicle dealers and workshops were also raided. The raids began simultaneously by around 7 am and continued late into the evening in some places.

The Customs Department seized around 40 vehicles as part of Operation Numkhor last month on charges of illegally they being illegally imported from Bhutan, evading customs duty. Customs officials suspect that around 200 luxury vehicles were illegally imported to Kerala. Most of those cars have not been traced yet.

The Customs raid exposed a syndicate engaged in illegal import and registration of luxury cars via Bhutan and Nepal.

"Preliminary findings reveal a Coimbatore-based network using forged documents (purporting to be from the Indian Army, US Embassy, and the Ministry of External Affairs) and fraudulent RTO registrations in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and other states. Vehicles were later sold to high-net-worth individuals, including film personalities, at undervalued prices," said the ED in a statement.

Deposit Rs 60 cr if you want to go abroad: HC to Shilpa Shetty

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday said it would consider the plea filed by actor Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj Kundra to travel abroad only if they deposit Rs 60 crore, the amount involved in a cheating case against them.

Denying permission to travel, the High Court also refused to pause the Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against the couple.

The couple faces a case registered with the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police based on a complaint by Mumbai-based businessman Deepak Kothari, who alleged to have paid Rs 60.48 crore to the couple between 2015 and 2023 for the business expansion of their now-defunct company, Best Deal TV Pvt Ltd.

However, the couple spent the amount on personal expenses, Kothari hasalleged.

A division bench of the Bombay HC comprising Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhad said it cannot permit leisure trips when the duo is accused in the cheating and fraud case.

The couple's petition has sought suspension of the LOC from October 2025 to January 2026.

"We would consider the petition only after the entire amount of Rs 60 crore is deposited," the court said.

Andhra: Seven workers killed in blast at cracker unit

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Seven workers were killed and four others were critically injured in a powerful explosion at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh's Ambedkar Konaseema district on Wednesday.

The explosion took place at the Laxmi Ganapati Fireworks manufacturing unit in Komaripalem village in the afternoon. Preliminary reports indicate that approximately 12 workers were inside the unit when the explosion occurred.

Fire tenders and emergency teams rushed to the scene and launched rescue operations.

The injured were admitted to Kakinada Government Hospital, while one person was taken to the Chest Hospital.

Police suspect an error in the mixture of explosive materials may have caused the explosion.

Five victims have been identified so far. They are — factory owner Velugubanti Satyanarayana (55), Paka Aruna, Chitturi Shyamala, Kudipudi Jyothi, and P Shesha Ratnam.

Emergency teams completed rescue operations and extinguished the flames by evening, said Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has assured the families of the deceased and injured of all possible help.

"The loss of several lives has caused immense grief. I spoke with officials about the causes of the accident, the current situation, relief measures, and medical assistance. I have advised that better medical aid be provided to the injured. We stand with the affected families," Naidu said.

PM Narendra Modi also expressed grief. In a post on X, he said, "The loss of lives due to a mishap in Konaseema district, is deeply saddening. My thoughts are with the affected people and their families during this difficult time."

Four more arrested in Dalit man's lynching case in UP; police to slap NSA

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Amid attacks from the Opposition Congress, the police have arrested four more people in connection with the alleged lynching of a Dalit youth in Uttar Pradesh's Raebareli district, taking the total number of arrests to nine.

Police said the Gangsters Act and the National Security Act (NSA) will be invoked against the accused, and cautioned against attempts to give the incident a "casteist slant", claiming that the accused were unaware of the victim's caste.

A senior police official said that a search operation was underway to nab the other accused persons. "We have identified 10 to 15 others who were involved in the incident... We will arrest them soon and ensure strict punishment," they added.

Earlier, Vaibhav Singh, Vijay Kumar, Sahdev Pasi, Vijay Maurya and Suresh Kumar Maurya, were arrested in connection with the incident.

Hariom, was allegedly beaten to death by a mob with sticks, belts and rods during a night vigil at about 1 am on October 2, who mistook him to be part of a gang using drones to mark houses for robberies.

A video, which went viral on social media, showed the victim repeatedly taking the name of Rahul Gandhi, to which the mob replied that they were "Babawale" (supporters of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath). "We are supporters of Adityanath... Also, take the names of Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad," the mob could be heard telling the profusely bleeding victim when he took Rahul's name.

While four police personnel, including an ASI, were suspended, an SHO was shunted out after the incident.

(*With PTI inputs*)

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

BOY, WHAT A DAY!
OH MY! BAD DAY AT WORK, HONEY?
ACTUALLY, IT WAS A FANTASTIC DAY, AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM!
OH! HOW SO?
IT REMINDED ME OF HOW BAD ALL THE OTHER DAYS ARE!

Hagar The Horrible

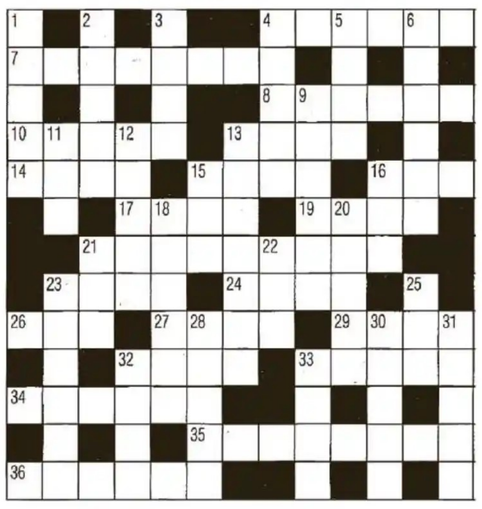
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

HE HAS TENNIS ELBOW?
I HAVE A STRAP THAT MIGHT HELP
TELL HIM TO WEAR IT THE NEXT TIME HE PLAYS...
I HAVE MY DOUBTS, BUT I'LL TRY ANYTHING

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12263



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 A back seat (6)
7 Do they look down in the mouth? (3-5)
8 Something to run that possibly ran red (6)
10 Kind of farm excellent in a dry environment? (5)
13 Though feeble, we take heart (4)
14 No Slovenian city (4)
15 Get on to the bank (4)
16 Can't you drink bags of it? (3)
17 What women need in disorderly bars? (4)
19 Is an island river (4)
21 Land planes by the score? (5,4)
23 Reductions in minor injuries (4)
24 Where, in France, nothing is noted? (4)
26 Potato vessel? (3)
27 Strike as being dull? (4)
29 Expected money for a fight (4)
32 What you take in, that is, in extremes of doubt (4)
33 She's not exactly petty (5)
34 You'll spot it on board (6)
35 The place for English extremists? (5,3)
36 Taking pleasure in manipulating levers (6)

DOWN
1 Fighting to a finish in a knockout (5)
2 Lived up to a bad name (5)
3 Less than a discovery, it's true (4)
4 In various ways, he shows polish (5)
5 Nominally, he may get stuck in (4)
6 Attempts to get one's point home (6)
9 Sends the right farewell (6)
11 A hush in the wood (3)
12 Android able to root out a bighead (5)
13 Although a disappointment, stains may do so (7)
15 Resin from a galactic source? (3)
16 It's up north that it's slang for money (3)
18 Out of town, we get metal rot I see (6)
20 Vegetable for which seed is scattered out west (5)
21 Royal and ancient expression of displeasure (3)
22 Passed a key to a girl (3)
23 It can act predatorily yet coo deceptively (6)
25 His patients are speechless! (3)
28 Is it cowardly to show a clean pair? (5)
30 Express in absolute terms (5)
31 Dylan's girl? (5)
32 Shaky game? (4)
33 Told to make a bed (4)

ACROSS
4 Using maximum effort (3-3)
7 Period of 30 minutes (4-4)
8 Drinking vessel (6)
10 Chasm (5)
13 Solid block (4)
14 Harsh grating noise (4)
15 Slimming plan (4)
16 That woman (3)
17 Discharge (4)
19 Prayer ending (4)
21 Vivacity (9)
23 Offers (4)
24 Hollow (4)
26 Jam container (3)
27 Cast off (4)
29 Heinous (4)
32 Touch (4)
33 Soft runny mud (5)
34 Fleet of ships (6)
35 Very hot curry (8)
36 Light and thin (6)

DOWN
1 Cut wool from (5)
2 Kills (5)
3 Therefore (4)
4 Quarrel (5)
5 Ear part (4)
6 Irregular (6)
9 Acquire (6)
11 Bleat (3)
12 Use up completely (5)
13 Fortified building (7)
15 Faint (3)
16 Farmyard bird (3)
18 Failed to hit (6)
20 Roadside hotel (5)
21 Broadcast (3)
22 Boy's name (3)
23 Cask (6)
25 That man (3)
28 Difficult to lift (5)
30 Musical instrument (5)
31 Yellow oval fruit (5)
32 Cultivate land (4)
33 Lather (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12262

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Dogger 7, Unionist 8, Sets 10, KU-wait 11, Oddes-t 14, Asp 16, A-isle 17, Dame 19,Table 21, Focal 22, Money 23, Hops 26, D-over 28, Fed(eral) 29, United 30, Wisdom 31, Ants 32, Col-lages 33, Handle.
DOWN: 1, Dunked 2, Grease 3, R-us-t. 4, H-old-all 5, Fives 6, State 8, Swam 9,Tip 12, Die 13, Slump 15, P-aces 18, An-to-n 19,Ton 20, Bay 21, For-eman 22, Met 23, Heston 24, Odds 25, S-ample 26, Dutch 27, Villa 28, Fin 30, Was-H.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Enlist 7, Alsatian 8, Roll 10, Global 11,Turtle 14,Tag 16, Rises 17, Afar 19, Madam 21, Repel 22, Fit in 23, Fare 26, Bonus 28, Pen 29, Adonis 30, Colour 31, Odin 32, Ruthless 33, Heeded.
DOWN: 1, Enigma 2, Isobar 3,Tall 4, Natural 5,Tilts 6, Andes 8, Rota 9, Lag 12, Rim 13, Leper 15, Rapid 18, Flood 19, Met 20, Den 21, Risible 22, Fun 23, Feline 24, Anon 25, Earned 26, Basra 27, North 28, Pod 30, Cosh.

◆SU-DO-KU-6721◆

					1		3	
	5	4	3		2			
			5	7		2	4	
				9				5
8								4
2				8				
	4	7		1	3			
			4		6	8	7	
	3		7					

medium

SOLUTION TO 6720

8	9	4	2	1	3	6	5	7
5	2	3	7	9	6	1	4	8
7	6	1	8	4	5	2	3	9
4	7	5	1	2	9	3	8	6
9	1	8	6	3	4	7	2	5
2	3	6	5	8	7	9	1	4
3	5	7	4	6	1	8	9	2
6	8	9	3	5	2	4	7	1
1	4	2	9	7	8	5	6	3

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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O1	F4	R1	L1	L1	A1	O1	Double Word Score
I1	E1	N1	P3	G2	N1	O1	
T1	N1	L1	G2	A1	O1	I1	
T1	U1	U1	H4	T1	G2	S1	Triple Word Score

RACK 1 | RACK 2 | RACK 3 | RACK 4

PAR SCORE 105-115
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

B3	R1	I1	B3	E1	R1	Y4	RACK 1 = 92
V4	O1	L1	T1	A1	G2	E1	RACK 2 = 83
E1	C3	O1	N1	O1	M3	Y4	RACK 3 = 92
G2	A1	R1	B3	L1	E1	D2	RACK 4 = 83

PAR SCORE 230-240 JUDD'S TOTAL 350

HITORI-3175

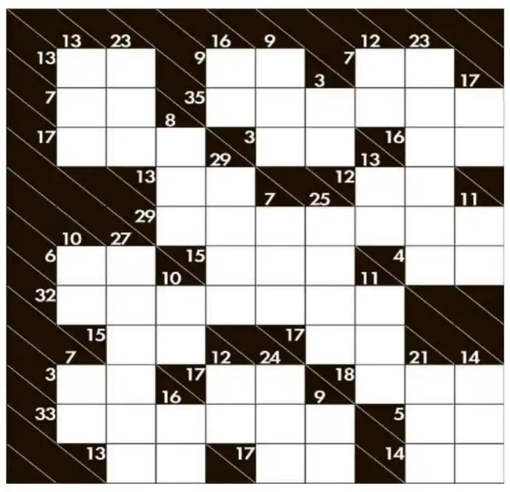
5	3	7	4	8	7	5	6
7	5	6	5	3	8	5	5
4	8	5	6	5	3	7	1
4	2	3	7	6	5	1	8
8	5	1	5	5	2	7	7
5	1	3	7	7	6	2	5
6	4	5	1	5	8	8	3
2	6	8	5	4	1	5	2

SOLUTION TO 3174

■	3	7	■	8	1	6	■
3	■	2	4	7	6	■	1
4	8	■	3	6	■	5	2
■	7	3	6	5	4	■	8
6	4	■	8	■	2	7	5
7	■	1	■	4	■	2	■
■	6	4	1	2	5	8	7
2	5	8	■	3	■	4	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3175



SOLUTION TO 3174

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3700

2	8	1		7				■
	■						■	
3		■			8	■		
			8	6	■	5		4
				■				
			7	5	■			
	7	2				9		
	■			3		1	5	
5	3					7		■

SOLUTION TO 3699

1	6	2	8	4	3	7	5	9
5	9	3	7	1	2	6	8	4
8	7	4	5	6	9	3	1	2
6	5	9	3	2	4	8	7	1
2	1	7	6	5	8	9	4	3
4	3	8	1	9	7	5	2	6
9	8	6	4	7	1	2	3	5
3	2	1	9	8	5	4	6	7
7	4	5	2	3	6	1	9	8

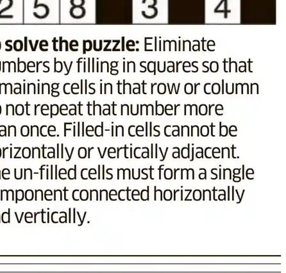
To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENHYO
LRBTU
MRLAFO
GRTIBH


Wow! I've never seen someone hook as badly as you.
I just can't keep it on the fairway
WHEN IT CAME TO KEEPING THE BALL ON THE FAIRWAY, THE GOLFER WAS HAVING A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FULLY GOURD BESIDE SNAZZY
Answer: The pub was very popular with geckos, iguanas, monitors and other — LOUNGE LIZARDS

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California designates Diwali as state holiday

NEW YORK, PTI: In a historic development for the Indian diaspora, California has designated Diwali as an official state holiday, becoming the third state in the US to officially recognise the Indian festival of lights as a holiday.

California Governor Gavin Newsom Tuesday, announced that he has signed a bill by Assembly member Ash Kalra designating Diwali as a state holiday. In September, the bill titled 'AB 268'to designate Diwali as an official state holiday had successfully passed both houses of the legislature in California and was awaiting final action by Newsom.

"California is home to the largest population of Indian Americans, and designating Diwali as an official state holiday will uplift its message to the hundreds of thousands of Californians that celebrate and help introduce it to many throughout our diverse state," Kalra had said last month.

"Diwali brings communities together with the message of goodwill, peace, and shared sense of renewal. California should embrace Diwali and its diversity, not keep it hidden in darkness," he added.

In October 2024, Pennsylvania became the first state to officially recognise Diwali as a state holiday, followed by Connecticut this year. In New York City, Diwali has been declared a holiday for public schools.

Chemistry Nobel awarded for work on molecular architecture

STOCKHOLM, AP/PTI

Scientists Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M Yaghi won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry on Wednesday for their pioneering work in developing metal–organic frameworks, a field that dates back to 1989.

The Nobel Committee said the three laureates "have developed a new form of molecular architecture".

"They have created molecular constructions with large spaces through which gases and other chemicals can flow," the committee added.

Hans Ellegren, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, announced the chemistry prize in Stockholm, the third Nobel of the week. "These constructions, metal–organic frameworks, can be used to harvest water from desert air, capture carbon dioxide, store toxic gases or catalyse chemical reactions," the committee said in a statement.

Robson, 88, is affiliated with the University of Melbourne in Australia; Kitagawa, 74, with Japan's Kyoto University; and Yaghi, 60, with the University of California, Berkeley.

Working separately but building on each other's breakthroughs, the chemists devised ways to make stable metal–organic frameworks—structures comparable to the timber framework of a house. These frameworks can absorb and contain gases, enabling applications such as carbon dioxide capture or extracting water from arid air.

"Metal–organic frameworks have enormous potential, bringing previously unforeseen opportunities for custom-made materials with new functions," said Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. Olof Ramström, a committee member, likened the discovery to Hermione Granger's enchanted handbag in the fictional "Harry Potter" series: small externally but enormous inside.

Kitagawa spoke to the committee and press by phone on Wednesday. "I'm deeply honoured and delighted that my long-standing research has been recognised," he said.

Between 1901 and 2024, 116 chemistry prizes were awarded to 195 individuals.

This week's announcements continue with the literature prize on Thursday, the Peace Prize on Friday, and the economics prize next Monday.

The awards ceremony will be held on 10 December, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death in 1896. Nobel was a wealthy Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite.

Trump calls for jailing Democratic leaders

National Guard troops gather outside Chicago despite opposition

CHICAGO/WASHINGTON, REUTERS

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson listens as Illinois Governor J B Pritzker speaks at a press conference against Trump's decision to deploy troops in Chicago. AFP FILE

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday called for the jailing of Chicago's mayor and the governor of Illinois, both Democrats, as his administration prepared to deploy military troops to the streets of the nation's third-largest city.

Neither Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson nor Illinois Governor J B Pritzker has been accused of any criminal wrongdoing, though both have become prominent opponents of Trump's immigration crackdown and his deployment of National Guard troops in Democratic-leaning cities.

Trump's demand to imprison the two elected officials comes as another high-profile political rival, former FBI Director James Comey, appeared in court to face criminal charges that have been widely criticised as weak.

Trump has repeatedly called for jailing his opponents since first entering politics in 2015, but Comey is the first to face prosecution. On his social media platform, Trump accused Johnson and Pritzker of failing to protect immigration officers operating in Chicago.

"Chicago Mayor should be in jail for failing to protect ICE officers! Governor Pritzker also!" Trump wrote, referring to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel. On Monday, Johnson signed an executive order creating an "ICE-Free Zone" that bans federal immigration agents from using city property for their operations.

Hundreds of Texas National Guard soldiers have assembled at an Army facility outside Chicago, despite objections from Pritzker, Johnson, and other Democratic leaders in the state. Trump has also threatened to deploy troops to more US cities.

Trump has already sent Guard troops to Chicago and Portland, Oregon, following earlier deployments to Los Angeles and Washington, DC. In each case, he has defied strong opposition from Democratic mayors and governors, who argue that his claims of lawlessness and violence are exaggerated. The National Guard troops have so far been used mainly to protect federal facilities, not to fight street crime.

"What we have going on right now is literally domestic terrorism in Chicago," Todd Blanche, the No 2 Justice Department official, said.

Pritzker has accused Trump of trying to stir unrest to justify greater militarisation. His state has sued to block the troop deployment.

Former FBI chief Comey pleads not guilty

Former FBI director James Comey pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to felony charges in a case widely seen as an escalation of President Donald Trump's campaign of retribution against political opponents, AFP reports from Alexandria (US).

Comey, 64, a prominent critic of the president, was indicted by a grand jury last month on charges of making false statements to Congress and obstructing a congressional proceeding. The judge scheduled a trial date of January 5. He faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

Hamas hands over lists of names for swap deal

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, REUTERS: Hamas handed over lists on Wednesday of hostages and Palestinian prisoners to be exchanged in a swap, and said it was optimistic about negotiations to end the war in Gaza, while US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and envoy were due to join the talks.

Negotiations are focused on the mechanisms to halt the conflict, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and the swap deal, the Palestinian militant group added, in a seemingly upbeat assessment of the talks over a plan put forward by Trump, the closest diplomats have come to silencing the guns.

One of the biggest sticking points will be pressure on Hamas to disarm, an issue it has so far been unwilling to discuss at the talks, which began on Monday in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh, according to a Palestinian source close to the negotiations.

Close to ceasefire deal

Talks on bringing an end to the war in Gaza are on the verge of reaching a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Wednesday.

Turkish, Qatari, Egyptian and US mediators are working to realise Trump's peace plan.

"If an agreement is reached today, a ceasefire will be declared," Fidan told a news conference in Ankara with Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shibani.

ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ ಸಂಘಟನೆ
EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION
(ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ, ಭಾರತಸರ್ಕಾರ)
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
Regional Office, Rajarajeshwari Nagar
ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರೀಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ರಾಜರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿ ನಗರ
Rajarajeshwari Regency, No.570, 26th Cross, Ideal Home Co-op Society Layout, Bangalore-560098
ರಾಜರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿ ರೀಜೆನ್ಸಿ, ನಂ -570, 26 ನೇ ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ಐಡಿಯಲ್ ಹೋಮ್ ಕೋ-ಆಪ್ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-98
Tele: 080-28603108/28603125
Email: ro.rrnagar@epfindia.gov.in, Website: www.epfindia.gov.in
No/BG/MRD/CT-ADM/2025-26/ Date: 08/10/2025

NOTICE FOR SALE OF OLD/OBSOLETE ITEMS

Sealed quotations are invited by Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Raja Rajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore for the sale of old/obsolete/unserviceable items such as computer, photocopier, printers, furniture and other items etc available at this office. Interested parties may inspect the items on **10.10.2025** between 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. by contacting Care Taker, (General Administration) Phone No.9986652277. The list of items and bid conditions may be obtained from the office.

The quotations, duly signed and sealed, should reach the undersigned on or before **12.10.2025** by 2:00 pm **[time]**. The items will be sold on "as is where is" basis. The applicant should submit the bid in sealed cover superscripted as "Quotations for disposal of old / obsolete/ unserviceable items etc." The bid should be addressed to the Regional P F Commissioner -I. The tenders would be opened on the same day at 4:00 P.M. before the purchase committee in the office premises. Those bidders who wish to present during tender opening may do so.

Sd/- Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I
Employees Provident Fund Organisation,
Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore.

Chhattisgarh State Handloom Development & Marketing Co-Operative Federation Limited
B-26, Sector 07, New Rajendra Nagar Raipur, Phone 0771-4059181
E-mail:-cghandloom@gmail.com
S.N./Est. /2025-26/841 **Raipur Dated 8.10.2025**

Expression of Interest (EOI): Textile Designer

Chhattisgarh State Handloom Development and Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd., Raipur, invites applications for the position of Textile Designer on a contractual basis. The candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree in Textile Design from NIFT/NID, or any other recognized institute of repute, with a minimum of two years' experience in a reputed handloom industry or platform. The initial appointment will be for one year, extendable based on satisfactory performance. The contract salary of Textile Designer will be negotiable.

Interested candidates may submit their application along with a detailed bio-data and supporting documents to this office within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

Sd/- Managing Director

Chhattisgarh State Handloom Development & Marketing Co-Operative Federation Limited
B-26, Sector 07, New Rajendra Nagar Raipur, Phone 0771-4059181
E-mail:-cghandloom@gmail.com
S.N./Est. /2025-26/841 **Raipur Dated 8.10.2025**

Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI): Marketing Executive

The Chhattisgarh State Handloom Development and Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd., Raipur, invites applications for the appointment of a Marketing Executive on a contractual basis to promote Chhattisgah Udoyg handloom products. The candidate must possess an MBA from a recognized, accredited institution and have a minimum of two years' experience as a Marketing Executive in a reputed handloom/ Textiles industry or platform. The initial appointment will be for one year, extendable based on satisfactory performance. The contract salary of Marketing Executive will be negotiable.

Interested candidates may submit their application along with a detailed bio-data and supporting documents to this office within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

S-45513/4

Sd/- Managing Director

South East Central Railway
E-Tender Notice
Sr. No (1) E-Tender No. 76-ST-TENDER-2025, Date: 03.10.2025
Work: "Augmentation of Data-Logger System over BSP Division through central server upgradation, improved data-analytics and connectivity," **Tender Value:** ₹2,13,18,635.23 (Rupees Two Crore Thirteen Lakh Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Five and Twenty-Three Paise Only). **EMD:** ₹2,56,600/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Only), **Submission of Tender:** upto 15.00 hrs. on 27.10.2025. The complete information of above e-tender notice is available over website http://www.ireps.gov.in. Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender.
DSTE/CIC/BSP
CPR/10/PR/361 **S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur**
South East Central Railway @secrail

OUTSOURCING OF TRACK MACHINE WORKING AND MAINTENANCE
Tender Notice No.: TMCATMOUTSOURCING2025-27, Dated: 03-10-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Tender No.: TMCATMOUTSOURCING 2025-27; Brief Description of Item :** Deployment of 115 nos. ATM (Assistant Track Machine) through outsourcing for maintenance and working activities of Track Machines in NFR for a period of 2 years (24 months). **Estimated Cost:** ₹6,75,72,632/-; Date & time of **Closing** of tender at **15:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **28-10-2025**. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to **14:30** hrs. on **28-10-2025** in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**
Dy. CE/TMC, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

IN THE COURT OF THE JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE: GUNTAKAL ANANTAPUR (District) of ANDHRA PRADESH [STATE]
O.S.No.139 /2024
BETWEEN :
B.SREENIVASULU NAIK @ B.SREENIVAS NAIK **PLAINTIFF**
AND
Smt. JYOTHI S.NAIK **DEFENDANT**
H.No.74/2-A,
Behind Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ashram,
Art of Living, Sal Doddi Grama,
Kanakpura Road,
Bangalore-Pin -560082 Karnataka State
Summons to the Defendant
Smt. JYOTHI S.NAIK W/o B. Sreenivas Naik, D/o Shankar H.Rathod, Scheduled Tribe, age: 40 years, residing, at H. No.74/2-A, Behind Sri Sri Ravi Sankar Ashram, Sal Doddi Grama, Kanakapura Road, Kagglipura Post, Bengaluru of Karnataka (State).
Your appearance as the defendant in the above suit has been adjourned to 17-10-2025 at 10.30 A.M. On that day, you should appear in the above court either in person or through your lawyer, you should not raise any objections. Otherwise, the above case will be decided in your absence.
[as per orders of the court]
[N. HEMADRI]
ADVOCATE, GUNTAKAL ANANTAPUR (Dist) ANDHRA PRADESH /State)
Mobile No.9848620181

STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION (KARNATAKA KERALA REGION), BANGALORE

Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has published following Recruitment Notifications through which various posts in Delhi Police including Sub Inspector in Delhi Police & CAPFs shall be filled through Computer Based Examinations (CBE) followed by other stages of recruitment mentioned in their respective Notifications.

(i) Sub-Inspector in Delhi Police and Central Armed Police Forces Examination, 2025 {Vacancies -3073}

(ii) Constable (Executive) Male and Female in Delhi Police Examination,2025 {Vacancies - 7565}

(iii) Head Constable(Assistant Wireless Operator(AWO)/Tele Printer Operator(TPO)in Delhi Police Examination,2025 {Vacancies - 552}.

(iv) Constable(Driver) in Delhi Polcie Examination,2025 {Vacancies - 737}

(v) Head Constable (Ministerial) in Delhi Police Examination, 2025 {Vacancies - 509}

Detailed respective Notifications along with eligibility criteria, terms & conditions, closing dates of the online application, fee exemption, tentative dates of CBE and application format etc is available on the Commission website ssc.gov.in and Karnataka Kerala Regional Office website **ssckkr.kar.nic.in.**

Eligible candidates may apply online through the website of the Commission **ssc.gov.in.**

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
SSC(KKR), BANGALORE

CBC 32203/11/0011/2526

Pakistan warns of real war risk with India

Country could fare better in conflict, says defence minister

ISLAMABAD, PTI

Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir stands on a tank while speaking to troops during a field training exercise. AFP FILE

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has warned that "chances of war with India are real" and claimed that his country would achieve even greater success in any future armed conflict.

Asif made the remarks in an interview with Samaa TV on Tuesday, when asked about recent statements by Indian political and military leaders.

"There is a threat of armed confrontation, and Pakistan is keeping its guard and watching the situation," the minister said. "Chances of war with India are real," Asif added.

He suggested that Pakistan could achieve more favourable results in the event of a war. "I do not want escalation, but the risks are real, and I am not denying that. If it comes to war, God willing, we will achieve a better result than before," he said. Asif claimed that Pakistan now has more supporters and allies than six months ago, while India has reportedly lost the backing of some countries that were previously on its side, though he did not name any nations. He also asserted that India was never a united country except briefly under Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, while Pakistan was created in the name of Allah and stood united during the May confrontation despite internal challenges.

"At home, we argue and compete. In a fight with India, we come together," he said.

His remarks follow similar threats made earlier after Indian Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi warned Pakistan to stop supporting state-sponsored terrorism if it wanted to remain on the world map.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, speaking at an event in Hyderabad, asserted that India could cross any border when necessary to protect its citizens.

Pakistan Army pledges to counter any attack

The Pakistan Army on Wednesday expressed concerns over the recent remarks by Indian civilian and military leaders and pledged to counter any attack with a "swift and decisive response", PTI reports from Islamabad. The 272nd Corps Commanders' Conference, held in Rawalpindi with Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir in the chair, also "agreed that unwarranted warmongering is likely to lead to heightened tensions and will endanger regional peace and security," according to a statement by the army.

Indian foreign secy's poll remark unwarranted, says B'desh

DHAKA, PTI: Bangladesh's interim government on Wednesday described Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's comments on the general election as "completely unwarranted".

"I see that statement as not their matter; it is entirely an internal issue for Bangladesh, and such comments are completely unwarranted," Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain told reporters.

Hossain made the remarks when asked to comment on Misri's statement that India is firmly in favour of holding free, fair and inclusive elections in Bangladesh at the earliest, and it is ready to work with any government chosen by the people in the polls.

Dhaka-New Delhi ties were strained after the interim government assumed power following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime in a violent student-led movement dubbed the "July Uprising" in August 2024, when she left for India.

Warrants for Hasina

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal on Wednesday issued arrest warrants for Hasina and 29 others for alleged crimes against humanity involving enforced disappearances, detention and torture of political opponents. The accused must appear before the tribunal on October 22.

Russia to down US-made Tomahawks sent to Ukraine

MOSCOW, REUTERS: Russia will shoot down Tomahawk cruise missiles and bomb their launch sites if the US decides to supply them to Ukraine, senior Russian lawmaker Andrei Kartapolov said.

US President Donald Trump said on Monday he would want to know what Ukraine planned to do with Tomahawks before agreeing to provide them because he did not want to escalate the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Myanmar military's paraglider attack kills 24 people at Buddhist festival

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: Myanmar's military carried out a paraglider strike on a village that killed at least 24 people, including children, and wounded more than 50 others, according to members of a resistance group, villagers, and media reports.

The Monday night attack was carried out using a motorised paraglider and targeted a village in the central Sagaing region during a Buddhist festival that included a rally calling for the release of political prisoners held by Myanmar's military government.

Myanmar has been in a civil war since the army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Much of the country, including Bon To village where the attack occurred, is under the control of resistance forces. The area is about 90 kilometres west of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city.

"The sickening reports emerging from central Myanmar following a nighttime attack should serve as a gruesome wake-up call that civilians need urgent protection," Amnesty International said.

More than 100 people from Bon To and nearby villages had gathered at the village's primary school compound for an oil lamp lighting ceremony marking the end of Buddhist Lent and calling for the release of political prisoners, including Suu Kyi, said a member of a local resistance group who attended the event.

At about 7:15 pm, a motorised paraglider dropped two bombs, killing an estimated 20 to 40 people, including children, villagers, and members of local political activist groups and armed anti-military groups, said the resistance fighter, who spoke on condition of anonymity to protect his security.

IN BRIEF

Wipro opens MyWiproVerse centre in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Wipro Commercial and Institutional Business (CIB), a part of the Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting division, launched MyWiproVerse Bengaluru, an experience hub, on Wednesday. This is the first in Karnataka and fourth across the country after Pune, Hyderabad and Chennai. The new 2,500 sq ft centre showcases future-ready workspaces featuring IoT-enabled lighting systems and ergonomic seating solutions, spanning offices, auditoriums, stadiums, work-from-home setups, and more.

Anuj Dhir, Senior VP and Business Head, Commercial and Institutional Business, Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting, told *DH* that they invest over Rs 35 lakh in each centre. "We are planning to open three more - Kolkata, Delhi-NCR and Coimbatore within this fiscal year," he said. According to him, the lighting solutions market size is over Rs 6,000 crore.

CREDAI to hold Realty Expo 2025 from Oct 10

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI), Karnataka is organising Realty Expo 2025 from October 10 to 12 at KTPO, Whitefield in Bengaluru. The exhibition, which is a one-stop destination for property seekers, investors, and industry professionals, will be open to visitors on October 11 and 12, CREDAI said in a statement.

Air India ties up with STARLUX

MUMBAI, DHNS: Air India has entered into an interline partnership with Taiwan-based STARLUX Airlines, further enhancing travel options for customers across Asia.

Through this partnership, Air India customers will be able to access Taipei via Air India's Southeast Asia gateways namely, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City and Kuala Lumpur.

On the other hand, STARLUX customers will enjoy seamless connections to Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru via shared gateways in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City and Kuala Lumpur. The interline agreement between the two carriers enables single-ticket itineraries.

Google arm to pitch $10 bn in Vizag Hyperscale Data Centre

It is the largest FDI in India's digital space yet

SNV SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) on Wednesday approved Google's subsidiary Raiden Infotech's landmark hyperscale data center project in Visakhapatnam, representing an investment worth nearly $10 billion. This marks one of the largest foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments in India's digital infrastructure sector to date.

Chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the SIPB recognised the project as a gamechanger for Andhra Pradesh's IT ecosystem and endorsed plans to position Visakhapatnam as "AI City Vizag."

The strategic branding aims to replicate the transformative impact of early anchor investments that have historically reshaped regional technology landscapes, anchoring a global hub for AI, cloud, and data analytics under the Digital India, IndiaAI Mission, and Make in India initiatives.

According to sources in Andhra Pradesh Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) Department, Google's facility will comprise three major data centre campuses in Adavivaram and Tarluvada (Visakhapatnam district) and Rambilli (Anakapalli district). All three campuses are expected to be operational by July 2028. The development will involve landing three high-capacity submarine cables through dedicated cable landing stations, along with extensive metro fiber networks and supporting telecommunications infrastructure.

"This investment underscores global confidence in Andhra Pradesh's governance, policy stability, and execution capability," said a senior ITE&C official. "The state offers single-window clearances, proactive facilitation, reliable utilities, renewable energy integration, and world-class industrial infrastructure—coordinated by the Economic Development Board and ITE&C Department to ensure long-term operational stability for hyperscale projects," the official added.

Google's data centre is expected to serve as a cornerstone of modern economic infrastructure accelerating the adoption of AI, cloud computing, IoT, 5G, and e-governance platforms. The project will also boost ancillary sectors such as power, fiber optics, real estate, and telecommunications, while triggering upgrades in road, power, and fiber connectivity. It is projected to enhance State revenues through SGST, electricity duty, and property tax once the incentive phase concludes.

Aligned with Andhra Pradesh's push for sustainable, renewable energy-driven data centers, the state plans to develop a dedicated Emerging Technologies Cluster around the proposed Google's facility to attract AI and cloud enterprises. This initiative aims to fast-track Vizag's emergence as India's AI capital and a global node for digital transformation.

"The Government will work closely with Google and its partners to ensure timely execution, sustainable operations, and inclusive community development," Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said. "This is more than an investment. It's a vision coming to life. Andhra Pradesh is proud to host one of the world's largest technology projects, a testament to our policy strength, governance, and the capability of our people. The Google Data Center in Vizag will anchor our journey towards becoming the AI capital of India and a global hub for digital innovation," Naidu added.

Independent assessments by Access Partnership (2025) and Google's economic modeling estimate that the project will contribute an average of Rs 10,518 crore annually to the State's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) during the first five years of operations (2028–2032), supporting approximately 1,88,220 direct and indirect jobs each year across construction, data center operations, engineering, IT services, and supply chain functions.

Beyond direct operations, Google cloud-enabled productivity gains are expected to contribute Rs 9,553 crore per year amounting to Rs 47,720 crore over five years through digital enablement across the wider economy. At the national level, comparable digital infrastructure hubs could unlock up to USD $2.1 trillion in value addition and support 10 million jobs by 2047.

'Made-in-India' 4G stack ready for exports: PM Modi

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'India Mobile Congress 2025', at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi on Wednesday. PHOTO: PTI

'1GB data in India costs less than a cup of tea'

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has become the fifth country in the world to develop the complete set of tools and technology to run mobile networks and the fully homegrown "4G stack", which was rolled out recently, is ready for exports, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

"Made-in-India 4G stack has another unique feature. Our 4G stack is also export ready. This means it will also serve as a medium for India's business outreach," the Prime Minister said at the inaugural session of the 9th edition of India Mobile Congress.

Modi recently launched the indigenous 4G telecom stack, which includes a set of tools and software to run the fourth-generation telecom services. India is the fifth country after Denmark, Sweden, South Korea and China, to manufacture the fourth generation (4G) mobile technology stack.

"This is a big step for the country towards digital self-reliance, towards technological independence. Through indigenous 4G and 5G stack, we will not only be able to ensure seamless connectivity but will also be able to provide fast internet and reliable services to the countrymen," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that the government is fast-tracking reforms and creating attractive opportunities for investors to boost local manufacturing. He remarked that the "government is financing test beds for technologies like 5G, 6G, advanced optical communications, and tera-hertz to enable product development."

He said that India has emerged as the second largest 5G market and is the leading country in terms of per user data consumption.

"Today in India, the cost of one GB of wireless data is less than the price of a cup of tea, I have a habit of giving the example of tea," he said.

Speaking on the occasion Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said India targets to secure 10% of global patents in 6G. He said the 6G telecom service is expected to contribute $1.2 trillion to India's GDP by 2035.

"India is no longer a mere consumer of technology. We strive to be the architects of the future of technology. From our indigenous 4G stack and 5G stack to open RAN prototypes for 6G, we are building sovereign capabilities across chip design, secure core, satellite backhaul, and AI native networks," the minister said.

More than 1.5 lakh visitors and 7,000 delegates from over 150 countries are expected to participate in the 9thedition of the India Mobile Congress, dubbed as the Asia's largest telecom, media, and technology event.

'India on track to meet 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030'

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India is on the track to achieve the target of producing 500 Gigawatts (GW) of electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said on Wednesday.

"By 2030 our goal is to achieve 500 GW. We are on track. We have 162 GW in the pipeline. I am confident that we will achieve that goal," Joshi said at an event organised by the International Solar Alliance.

The minister claimed that renewables now make over 50% of India's total installed power capacity. India has achieved this five years ahead of the 2030 target given under the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP26).

Joshi said that India has emerged as the world's 3rd largest solar power producer. Over 20 lakh households have already been benefiting from solar power on their rooftop under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Yojana, he said.

"We have seen first-hand how decentralised solar transforms lives, brings light to rural homes, powers local health centres and gives new tools to our farmers. With PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, more than 20 lakh households are benefiting from solar power," the minister said.

He announced that the eighth session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) assembly would be held in New Delhi from October 27-30.

Launched by India and France at COP21 in Paris, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) is the largest treaty-based intergovernmental organisation from the Global South, bringing together 124 members. ISA is the first international organisation established and headquartered in India.

Ashish Khanna, Director General of ISA, said over 40 ministers from across the member countries are scheduled to participate in the eighth session of the ISA assembly.

"Global renewable energy is at an inflection point. It took oil 25 years to reach 1,000 GW. Renewables doubled that in just two years. For the first time, renewable generation has surpassed fossil generation. This is a decisive moment for the Global South to lead," Khanna said.

More flights between India, UK coming up

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's India visit to unlock opportunities for British businesses in India, has also spelt a take-off for the aviation sector.

"It comes as British Airways has today confirmed it will introduce a third daily flight between Delhi and London Heathrow in 2026, subject to regulatory and capacity approval, and will look for further growth opportunities in the country as trade between the UK and India increases," said Business and Trade Secretary Peter Kyle.

"Our ties with India were established over 100 years ago and today we have around 2,500 British Airways colleagues based there. We've been steadily increasing capacity between India and the UK over the years and we're now operating 56 direct services from five Indian cities each week," said Sean Doyle, Chairman and Chief Executive of British Airways.

"The Free Trade Agreement with India will boost economic momentum between our two countries and British Airways really sits at the centre of that activity, acting as an enabler for increased trade. We will develop our own network alongside increased economic activity so the FTA for our business is very good news. As the airline that offers the biggest network of any European carrier into the North Atlantic, we also help connect India to the US and beyond, so when you add this factor into the mix, there's a lot to be excited about for our two connected economies," he said.

According to Boyle, Manchester Airport will also launch a new direct route to Delhi operated by IndiGo, adding to its existing Mumbai service and making it the only UK airport outside London with connections to both cities.

"The expansion is expected to generate over £50 million in annual exports, £25 million in tourism income, and 450 new jobs, while boosting productivity and research collaboration across the North," he said.

"We are proud to connect the North to the world and today's announcement means people and businesses across the region will now have direct access to both India's financial centre and its capital," noted Manchester Airport Managing Director Chris Woodroofe.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer (C) walks with Britain's Business Secretary Peter Kyle (L) and Sean Doyle, Chief Executive of British Airways, on the tarmac at Heathrow Airport, as they leave for India on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

Whisky makers benefited from Indo-UK deal: Peter Kyle

MUMBAI, DHNS: In the backdrop of the landmark UK-India trade deal in July, United Kingdom's Business and Trade Secretary Peter Kyle on Wednesday said whisky producers from Britain have particularly benefited from tariffs being reduced immediately.

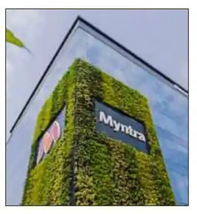
"Whisky producers have particularly benefited from tariffs being reduced immediately from 150% to 75%, and then dropped even further to 40% over the next ten years - giving the UK an advantage over international competitors in reaching the Indian market," said Kyle, who is part of the 125-member strong delegation to India led by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

"We've shown there is no limit on our ambition to grow trade with India – in less than a year we've gone from restarting talks on a deal, to bringing 125 brilliant business leaders to its commercial capital. Our deal is the best any country has ever secured with India and places British businesses at the front of the queue to access a huge and ever-growing market," Kyle said on Wednesday on the eve of the talks.

"Thanks to the deal, India's average tariff on UK products will drop from 15% to 3% - which means British companies selling products to India, from soft drinks and cosmetics to cars and medical devices, will find it easier to sell to the Indian market," he added.

Myntra Big Fashion Festival sees 2 million new customers

BENGALURU, DHNS: Flipkart-owned Myntra's fashion festival sale has witnessed 2 million new customers, and non-metro shoppers continued to drive growth by contributing 70% of overall orders during the sale.



The platform said cities such as Jaipur, Lucknow, Indore, Faridabad, Dehradun, Ludhiana, Bhopal, Kanpur, Visakhapatnam, Coimbatore and Vijayawada emerged as high-traction hubs, with strong demand for ethnic wear, wedding collections, beauty essentials and sportswear.

Bharath Kumar, Senior Director, Revenue and Growth, Myntra, said, "This year's festive season brought in a renewed momentum in the industry following the recent GST reforms, and the Myntra Big Fashion Festival enabled fashion consumption for millions of customers across metros and non-metros. As brands passed on the GST savings to customers ahead of time, starting with BFF, festive fashion categories experienced a strong momentum, international and luxe brands gained a significant rise in demand, indicating the spending intent of the customers."

The jewellery category grew over 80% over last year's festive sale, and sports wear grew multifold, fuelled by drops from brands like New Balance, Puma, etc.

FWD, Myntra's Gen-Z focused destination, witnessed a 2X growth in demand over BAU (Business as usual). This was led by Ethnic wear, which registered a 2.5X growth in demand, followed by Men's wear at 2.2X. Myntra also said that international brands saw a significant increase in demand for several top international brands and labels.

Bengaluru is the ideal hub for our automation centre: OMRON

BENGALURU, DHNS: Japan-based industrial automation company OMRON on Wednesday opened a new automation centre in Bengaluru. The centre is a part of OMRON's global network of 44 automation centres and proof of concept (POC) labs, and it will serve manufacturers across the country, including micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

OMRON's new automation centre opened on Wednesday.

With Japan committing ¥10 trillion in investments over the next decade across sectors such as semiconductors and digital industries, the centre contributes to a shared ambition of positioning India as a trusted global hub for smart manufacturing and innovation, OMRON said.

To begin with, the centre will employ 50 people with highly specialised skills, and it will scale up further. Motohiro Yamanishi, Company President, Industrial Automation Company, OMRON Corporation, Japan, said, "We see immense potential in the dynamism of India's manufacturing sector. The centre underscores India's profound importance to our global as well as Asia Pacific vision and is designed to work hand-in-hand with local partners to enhance their global competitiveness and jointly address evolving societal needs through innovative automation."

Sameer Gandhi, Managing Director, OMRON Automation, India, said the centre takes a solutions-based approach to help Indian manufacturers tackle the challenges of building safer workplaces, delivering higher quality products, and improving efficiencies. "This is about more than automation; it's about participating towards creating a manufacturing ecosystem that has an active role in protecting public health, reducing waste, and driving economic growth," Gandhi added.

With a CAGR of over 15% since 2013 and more than 20% in the last three years, OMRON Automation in India is poised to continue this by targeting over 15% CAGR and achieving a turnover of Rs 600 crore in FY25.

Theia Ventures announces maiden fund of $30 million

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mumbai-based Theia Ventures, an early-stage venture capital fund dedicated exclusively to energy transition, deep-tech and decarbonisation, on Wednesday announced that it will raise $30 million as part of its maiden fund. It has received half of it already and the balance is expected to come in by the end of the current fiscal.

Priya Shah

UK's development finance institution, British International Investment (BII) is the anchor investor. Other investors include institutions such as Cisco Foundation, which is a corporate VC arm in the US and two other funds, Allocator One (Germany), and Vitality Capital Partners (Australia). Many Indian family offices have also invested in this fund, according to Priya Shah, Founder & Managing Partner of Theia Ventures.

Through Fund-I, Theia Ventures has invested in Sarla AViation, an Accel-backed electric air taxi company, and recently led a pre-seed round in Climitra Carbon, a bio-coal company catering to the steel industry.

The fund has also signed on two additional companies in precision fermentation (biotech) and AI-based energy data modelling, with further investments expected to be announced in early 2026.

"Our objective is to unlock much-needed, early stage capital towards Indian companies building transformative technologies to disrupt the energy status quo. Petroleum or coal-based products and processes are now being rapidly replaced by cleaner fuels and energy sources, which presents a huge opportunity for startup innovation and growth, particularly in emerging sectors such as carbon removal, novel materials, data centres, clean mobility, renewable energy and biotech," Shah told *DH*.

Theia Ventures Fund-I aims to back 18–20 early-stage startups developing differentiated technologies to decarbonise critical sectors such as heavy industry, manufacturing, material science, mobility, and supply chains. The firm typically invests between $500,000 and $1 million, with over 50% of the corpus reserved for follow-on investments. The team has a strong track record in energy transition investments, with prior proprietary investments in companies such as Exponent Energy, AltM Bio, Octolife, and Metastable Materials.

Keeping puppetry alive in the digital age

Rooted in epic tales and folk wisdom, Togalu Gombeyaata is taking new forms to adapt to the new age, writes Surendra Pai

Giving a contemporary touch to the traditional Togalu Gombeyaata, some puppeteers across the state are now presenting shows on patriotic and social themes. In pic, Bapuji Togalu Gombeyaata performance at Kalaburagi. PHOTO BY TAZUDDIN AZAD

In the heartlands of Karnataka, as dusk falls and the world quiets, a flicker of light behind a white screen brings centuries-old stories to life. This is Togalu Gombeyaata, Karnataka's traditional form of shadow puppetry. A performance art rooted in epic tales, folk wisdom, coarse humour, and profound drama, it unfolds not in grand theatres but in makeshift bamboo stages under the open sky or on modest platforms, often stretching from night till dawn.

Literally meaning 'a play with leather dolls', Togalu Gombeyaata blends song and prose, and community storytelling.

Historically, Togalu Gombeyaata flourished under the patronage of powerful South Indian dynasties, the Rashtrakutas, Pallavas, Chalukyas, Kadambas and Hoysalas. Later, the Vijayanagara and the Mysore kingdoms supported this performing art, offering land grants and patronage to puppeteer communities.

One such community is the Killekyatha (or Shillekyatha). Originally believed to have migrated from the present-day southern Maharashtra, the Killekyathas spread across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, carrying their art from village to village.

Of puppets and performance

The puppets used in Togalu Gombeyaata were traditionally crafted from goat or deer hide because of its translucency and ability to absorb colour. Painted in vivid hues, they were not made from animals killed specifically for the purpose; rather, hides were obtained from animals that had died naturally or been slaughtered for meat.

But in recent years, there is a conscious shift. "Now, we either use the dolls made years ago or make dolls with plant-based and synthetic materials, aiming to reduce animal harm while preserving the craft," said Narayanappa Shillekyatha of Ballari.

He added that there are primarily two types of Togalu Gombeyaata in Karnataka, the Chikka Theatre where smaller puppets (20–30 cm) are used, and the Dodda Theatre where larger ones (up to 120 cm) are used.

Within these, regional variations exist based on the manipulation techniques, music, folk-theatre and morphology of figures, inspired by the sculpted and painted elements found in local temples.

"In Uttara Kannada and Dakshina Kannada, Gombeyaata's close relationship with Yakshagana is a defining characteristic. The elaborate costumes, headgear, and makeup of the puppets are directly inspired by the Yakshagana Bayalata characters, making the puppet shows a miniature, mobile version of the larger traditional theatre form," explains Bhaskar Kogga Kamath, president of Uppinakundru Gombemane, Kundapur.

In Vijayapura and Kalaburagi, the form is known as Katabarata, featuring puppets between one and four feet tall. In Ballari and Dharwad, the Killekyatha style uses puppets as tall as five feet. In the districts of Bengaluru and Kolar and those closer to Andhra Pradesh, the form is practised with large puppets. A Togalu Gombeyaata performance typically begins with invocations to deities Ganesha and Saraswati, followed by a humorous exchange between Killekyatha and his wife Bangarakka. Then, the central narrative unfolds, often drawn from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas, or folk tales.

Accompanied by a vibrant musical ensemble — flute, dhol, cymbals, mukhavina, pungi, and ektari — puppeteers manipulate the leather figures behind a lit screen. Modern performances now use electric lights instead of oil lamps.

"A single night's play may use over 50 puppets, including elaborate figures of animals, birds, gods, and demons," says puppeteer Arvind Shenoy.

Even the stories depend on the season. For instance, certain stories are told during harvest seasons, pre-monsoon rituals, or wedding festivities, deeply embedding the form in fertility traditions.

Survival in the age of screens

Despite its rich legacy, Togalu Gombeyaata is fading.

Earlier, family troupes, each assigned a specific set of villages, would travel with a collapsible stage — roughly 3x3 metres wide and 2.5 metres tall — made from bamboo sticks, cloth, and blankets. They would also perform all night. However now, most puppeteers perform on invitation-basis and restrict the shows to a couple of hours.

"In the early 1970s, Karnataka had over 50 regional leather puppet troupes. Today, only a handful survive," said Kamath.

"The main reason is the rise of modern digital entertainment. Audiences have dwindled, and sponsors are scarce. Without adequate government support, many artists have had to take up other professions to survive," he adds.

Yet, the art form still thrives in some pockets. In the coastal towns of Kundapura, Udupi and Mangaluru, puppet shows are staged during festivals, says Divakar Shenai, a long-time organiser. Summer workshops for children on Togalu Gombeyaata help spark interest in the younger generation.

Efforts are also being made to adapt traditional formats to contemporary themes.

Recently, a special puppet show was held at the horticulture fair in Bengaluru to educate farmers on modern agriculture practices and technology.

"The story written by Ramya H R, an agriculture scientist, was woven around farmers as it could convey our message effectively," said K V Ramesh, a puppeteer.

He added that they also perform plays on various subjects such as female foeticide and population control, but mythological narratives still draw the most interest.

Some teachers have also adopted puppetry in pedagogy. "I have taught making puppets to students as well. It not only develops their creativity but makes lessons more interesting for students," said Mallikarjun Koralli from Kalaburagi.

Togalu Gombeyaata, once a vibrant, all-night community affair, now teeters on the edge of obscurity. But behind the flickering shadows on a white cloth screen lies a vast, living archive of Karnataka's history, culture, and imagination, one worth preserving for generations to come.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to:
spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

A chronicler of lives often unheard

Nataraj Huliyar recalls the journey of Mogalli Ganesh who defied conventions and sparked conversations

Mogalli Ganesh. PHOTO BY M S MANJUNATH

When Mogalli Ganesh's short story *Ondu Hale Cheddi* won a prize in the *Prajavani* annual short story competition in 1989, readers were left nonplussed by the tragicomic experience the story offered. Until then, Ganesh had simply enjoyed narrating his experiences to his friends. It was his hostelmate, Rajappa Dalavayi, who recognised the potential, prepared a fair copy and sent it to the competition. Beyond the glory of the prize, Ganesh had to face the wrath of his characters and family, as he had portrayed them as they were. Ganesh's father was so angered that he set out to Mysore with a mission to break his son's bones.

Relishing the challenge, Ganesh never went home but continued to draw tirelessly from his childhood and his village life, as he wrote stories that won him three first prizes at the *Prajavani* annual competition. Among them, *Buguri* (The Top), which centred on the bizarre event of a hapless boy's top falling into a toilet pit in a village, created ripples. The absurd drama that unfolded in the story offered the reader an unusual experience. By then, Ganesh had mastered diverse storytelling techniques.

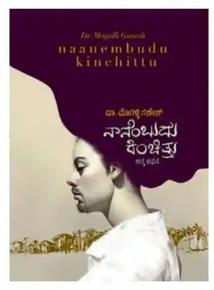
The kind of attention his stories earned often puzzled Ganesh, who used low mimetic and tragic modes in his narration. An unemployed youth with two master's degrees — in Economics and Folklore Studies — he started enjoying the recognition that came with being a writer. Veteran author P Lankesh nurtured this gifted young writer, and even published his first story collection, *Buguri*.

Ganesh wrote in longhand for over 40 years. For him, writing was both a passion and a lens to view the world. He moved between various forms of writing with ease.

When Lankesh asked him to review books for his weekly, Ganesh enjoyed writing free-wheeling reviews, often 'irritating' authors while raising stimulating questions. His poetry collection, *Deva Smashana* and his novel *Tottilu* cemented his place as a major Kannada writer.

Ganesh stood out among his contemporaries for exploring the violence within the Dalit society, patriarchal oppression, and meanness pervading rural caste structures. His stories explored the helplessness and humiliation faced by children and women, shedding light on the realities untold in Kannada literature till then.

Ganesh (1962- 2025) was born in Sante Mogenahalli, a village in Ramanagara district. When he finished high school, his father forced him to be a bonded labourer. Ganesh fled home and managed to survive in Mysuru, a city that nurtured his talent. Fascinated by communism, Ambedkarism and socialism, Ganesh remained an anarchist writer, inspired by the act of writing, and readers' responses. Only when he joined Hampi Kannada University as a lecturer in the 1990s, did he gain some security in life.



The cover of Mogalli Ganesh's autobiography *Naanembudu Kinchittu*.

The creative writer in him was always restless. The demands of the academics pushed him to research areas he was not much comfortable with. He was at his best when he wrote novels, stories and poems that reflected his true self. He wrote a series called 'Takararu', a counter petition published in a tabloid, in a hard-hitting style, which earned him the ire of some established writers. If he felt someone was a fake Bandaya writer, he would say so, in an earthy idiom. At times, his judgments were not convincing, but his worldview earned him a following in the progressive circles.

Writers like Poornachandra Tejaswi and U R Ananthamurthy engaged seriously with his work, the latter even entered into a debate with him.

Ganesh explored a form of magical realism while writing his autobiography, *Naanembudu Kinchittu*. His autobiography and some stories in his last collection, *Devara Daari*, demonstrate extraordinary narrative ease. Ganesh wrote his last story *Hosilu Datidavaru* (Those who crossed the threshold) a few days before he died. The story revisits the 12th century Basava era, and relates it to the ghastly murder of Professor M M Kalburgi.

Ganesh's socio-cultural concerns and his narrative energy were intact even when he was on his deathbed.

From fields to flight: When women farmers turn to drones

In Koppal's paddy fields, drones are emerging as a symbol of technological progress and women's empowerment, writes Pramod Kulakarni

Standing confidently on a field bund in Koppal's Gangavathi, Mahadevi Chandrashekhar pilots a drone buzzing high above the lush green paddy fields. The unusual sight draws the attention of villagers and passersby alike, as people pause to watch the flight of drones and the person skillfully controlling it.

Agricultural work is nothing new for Mahadevi. But her drone skills have sparked a sense of wonder and admiration in her village.

In Gangavathi and surrounding areas, the hum of drones is slowly becoming a familiar sound in the vast paddy fields.

Mahadevi, who hails from Chikkajantakal near Gangavathi, owns a modest rice mill and runs a bank that preserves organic seeds. A seasoned paddy cultivator, she has conserved 80 paddy varieties and developed 10 varieties. Though her formal education ended after SSLC, her ambitions reach far beyond managing the seed bank and farm work.

A couple of years ago, Mahadevi underwent specialised training in Chennai and Hyderabad to operate drones for spraying liquid fertilisers and pesticides under a union government scheme.

The agricultural sector in the region has faced increasing labour shortages over the years. Recognising this challenge, Mahadevi decided to use drones to fill the gap.

Today, she earns Rs 350 to Rs 400 per acre for the drone services she offers. She leads a financially independent life and promotes drone technology among other farmers in the area.

The 'twelve sisters'

Shanta from Mushtur village in Gangavathi taluk shares a similar inspiring journey. Having studied PUC and equipped with extensive farming experience, she manages two acres of leased farmland. Though two decades have passed since she left college, her zeal for adopting new agricultural technologies remains undiminished.

Working as a Krishi Sakhi (farming facilitator) in her gram panchayat, Shanta is also trained in drone operations. She is among the 12 women from Koppal district certified in drone piloting. Others include Nagaratna A and Tulasi Nekkanti from the nearby Marali village, and women from Kukanoor taluk.

Thirty-two-year-old Tulsi Nekkanti, who won a national award last year for implementing drone technology in the state, has covered around 1,500 acres of land in Gangavathi area in the last one year.

"I get orders throughout the year except in April and May. In a day, we cover around 30 to 35 acres of land using a drone. When done manually, a person can cover a maximum of 10 acres," said Tulsi.

Situated in the irrigated Tungabhadra command area, Gangavathi and surrounding villages have vast tracts of paddy fields. However, excessive use of pesticides and fertilisers has resulted in air and water pollution, degrading soil fertility. The drone operators feel that drone-based spraying could offer an effective solution to this problem.

According to them, drone spraying delivers the fertilisers in microdroplet form directly onto leaves, ensuring uniform coverage and healthier crops.

"During this year's kharif season, nearly 7,000 acres of land were covered using drones. We are planning to encourage more women to start piloting drones, by getting more drones through state funds," said Joint Director of Agriculture Rudreshappa T S.

"Watching drones at fairs and other events sparked my desire to learn piloting. I travelled to distant places for training. Now, this skill has become a source of income for me," said Mahadevi.

Trained at aeronautics centres in Chennai and Hyderabad over the past year, Koppal's drone operators have begun practical applications with promising results.

Some have also received training in Mysuru. They are trained to spray pesticides and liquid fertilisers on paddy, maize, sunflower, pigeon pea, jowar and groundnut crops.

However, some agriculturists also express concerns regarding the use of drones in agriculture. "Drone technology in itself may not be harmful but we must be careful as using chemical fertilisers and pesticides is not a sustainable agriculture practice.

Also, there are chances that the fertiliser sprayed from the drone may accidentally enter nearby fields and harm them," said G Krishnaprasad, an agriculture expert.

(Translated from Kannada by Divyashri Mudakavi)

Drone operators Mahadevi and Tulasi Nekkanti handle drones to spray fertiliser in a paddy field in Koppal district. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Clinical India U-19 seal 2-0 series win over Aus

MACKAY, PTI: India U-19 completed their clean sweep of Australia U-19 in the latter's backyard with a seven-wicket win in the second and final Youth Test, here on Wednesday.

Henil Patel

Resuming day two at 114 for seven, India U-19 ended with 171 all out for a 36-run first innings lead over Australia U-19. The home team was once again poor with the bat, managing just 119 runs in their second essay to set India U-19 an 81-run target.

India lost their star openers, captain Ayush Mhatre and Vaibhav Suryavanshi, early in the chase but still managed to gun down the target in 12.2 overs. It was, however, their over-aggressive approach on a testing pitch that led to the downfall of Suryavanshi and Mhatre. The southpaw, who is the youngest IPL centurion at 14, tried to hit the first ball he faced over the straight boundary but was unsuccessful.

In the very next ball of the following over, Mhatre perished after playing the ball on to his stumps off Kasey Barton. The writing was on the wall for Australia U-19, who could not find a way against the Indian attack. Pacer Henil Patel removed Simon Budge and Zed Hollick off successive balls to leave the hosts reeling at 0 for two in the second over of the second innings. It was all downhill from there for Australia U-19.

India won the red ball series 2-0 after blanking Australia in three Youth ODIs.

Brief Scores: Australia U19: 135 all out and 116 all out in 40.1 overs (Alex Lee Young 38; Henil Patel 3-23, Naman Pushpak 3-19, Udhav Mohan 2-17) lt to India U19: (O/n: 100/6 in 23.4 overs): 171 all out in 51.4 overs (Vedant Trivedi 25, Khilan Patel 26, Deepesh Devendran 28; Charles Lachmund 2-50, Will Byrom 2-33, Kasey Barton 4-57, Julian Osbourne 2-22) and 84/3 in 12.2 overs (Vedant Trivedi 33 n.o.; Kasey Barton 2/32).

CRICKET TEST SERIES

Consistent Rahul needs to focus on BIG HUNDREDS

Right-hander has fallen for 101 or less in three of his last four centuries

SIDNEY KIRAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

When Mayank Agarwal celebrated after reaching 150 against Bangladesh during the opening game of the two-Test series in Indore in November 2019, skipper Virat Kohli gestured from the dressing room with a V sign (meaning two by raising index and middle fingers) followed by shadow batting. Kohli, who had an insatiable appetite for 'daddy hundreds', wanted Agarwal to make a double century and not be satisfied with what he had gotten.

Agarwal didn't disappoint his captain, and the moment he touched upon that landmark for a second time in his career, he delightfully responded with the 'V' sign. A smiling Kohli then asked Agarwal to go for a triple, but the Karnataka batter couldn't fulfill that wish, getting out for a superb 243 that earned him his maiden Player of the Match award. Agarwal's childhood friend KL Rahul may probably want someone like Kohli to remind him a job isn't necessarily done after completing a century as a big knock, especially when he's the senior most specialist batter in the side.

After regaining his favoured opening slot from the Border-Gavaskar Trophy last year, the elegant Rahul has struck three centuries, but two of them have been exact 100s, with the other being 137. On both those occasions, the 33-year-old looked on course for a big one, but lapses in concentration have resulted in him trudging back to the dressing room in disappointment moments after celebration.

Take the century in the opening Test against the West Indies in Ahmedabad. Rahul was so ecstatic after ending a long wait for his second ton on home soil—his previous one was against England in Chennai in December 2016—that he drove a nicely tossed-up delivery from Jomel Warrican to Justin Greaves at cover. Rahul, who had the entire lunch session to savour his landmark and refocus, lost concentration to throw away an opportunity to turn it into a big score. The disappointment was evident on his face.

> When you travel abroad and play seaming swinging conditions with extra bounce, there's a lot of challenge. And at home, when there's three spinners playing and the field's spread out, you really need to get your runs with singles to make tons. So that's something that I've worked on.

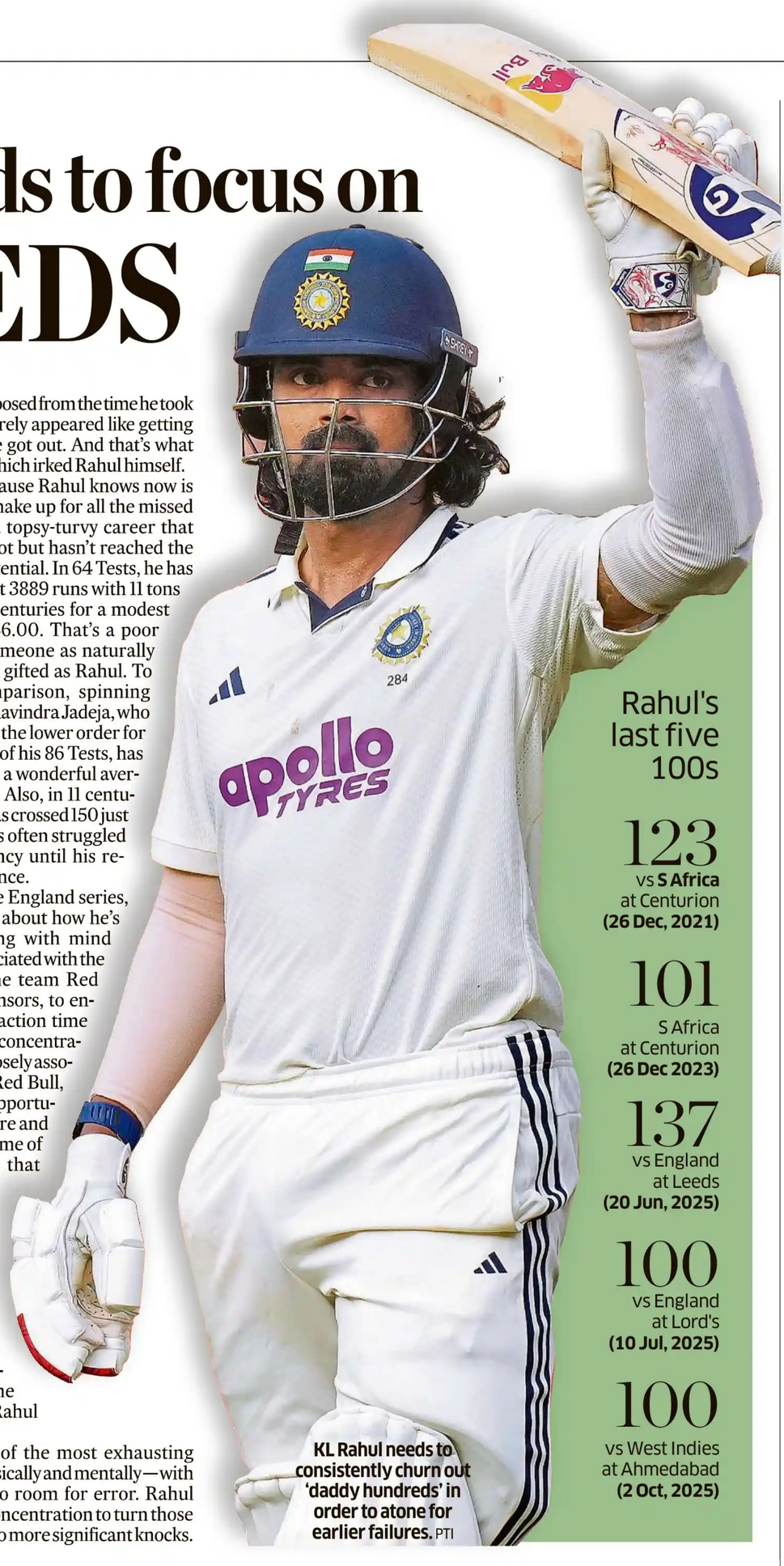
A similar incident happened at Lord's during the third Test against England. Right after becoming the second Indian to score multiple (two) hundreds at the 'Home of Cricket'—Dilip Vengarsarkar has the most with three—Rahul poked hard at a Shoaib Bashir delivery and was out caught at slip. Rahul couldn't believe what he had done, shaking his head in angst while he trudged back to the dressing room.

In both those innings, Rahul, who has been in excellent form from the start of the England series, was a picture of concentration. He took his time at the start of the innings, trusted his defence, and then slowly started switching gears. It was typical Test match batting from someone who is tailor-made for the format. Unlike his flashy opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rahul looked extremely composed from the time he took strike and barely appeared like getting out unless he got out. And that's what happened, which irked Rahul himself.

That's because Rahul knows now is the time to make up for all the missed chances in a topsy-turvy career that promised a lot but hasn't reached the expected potential. In 64 Tests, he has managed just 3889 runs with 11 tons and 19 half-centuries for a modest average of 36.00. That's a poor figure for someone as naturally talented and gifted as Rahul. To draw a comparison, spinning all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who has batted in the lower order for the majority of his 86 Tests, has 3990 runs at a wonderful average of 38.73. Also, in 11 centuries, Rahul has crossed 150 just twice and has often struggled for consistency until his recent resurgence.

During the England series, Rahul spoke about how he's been working with mind coaches associated with the Formula One team Red Bull, his sponsors, to enhance his reaction time and improve concentration. "I am closely associated with Red Bull, so I had the opportunity to go there and work with some of the coaches that work with the elite Formula One guys and other adventure sports people who require a lot of this mental side of the game," said Rahul then.

F1 is one of the most exhausting sports—physically and mentally—with absolutely no room for error. Rahul needs that concentration to turn those hundreds into more significant knocks.


KL Rahul needs to consistently churn out 'daddy hundreds' in order to atone for earlier failures. PTI

Rahul's last five 100s

123 vs S Africa at Centurion (26 Dec, 2021)

101 S Africa at Centurion (26 Dec 2023)

137 vs England at Leeds (20 Jun, 2025)

100 vs England at Lord's (10 Jul, 2025)

100 vs West Indies at Ahmedabad (2 Oct, 2025)

Jomon's double spurs Sporting Club Bengaluru to 3-0 win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jomon Jacob's brace in the final 10 minutes gave Sporting Club Bengaluru a much-needed respite in a tight contest for them to ease to a 3-0 win against Bharat Bengaluru FC during their KSFA Super Division League Championship here on Wednesday.

Shaurya Rastogi opened the account for the winners as early as in the 10th minute. However, in the action that followed, SCB found it tough to build on their lead while BBFC struggled to equalise as the score remained in favour of the former at the break.

The status quo was maintained for a majority of the second half before Jomon came to the fore, striking home his first goal in the 83rd minute to double SCB's tally. It wasn't long before Jamon brought up his second in the 85th minute to complete a comprehensive win.

Results: Sporting Club Bengaluru: 3 (Shaurya Rastogi 10th, Jomon Jacob 83rd, 85th) bt Bharat Bengaluru FC: 0; MEG & Centre FC: 1 (Pravesh Bisht 47th) bt Kodagu FC: 0; South United FC: 0 drew with BFC: 0.

Sporting Club Bengaluru's Jomon Jacob (left) battles for possession with Bharat BFC's Mangkhosat Haokip during their KSFA Super Division League Championship match in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

Doeschate backs struggling Sudharsan

TN batter has just one half-century in six Test innings since his debut in England

SIDNEY KIRAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate (left) has backed Sai Sudharsan to find his feet soon. PTI

In a largely happy Indian team that checked almost all boxes in the thumping win over the West Indies in the opening Test, the only person under some pressure is Sai Sudharsan. The talented 23-year-old southpaw, backed as the new No. 3, once again fluffed the lines in Ahmedabad, getting out for a 19-ball 7. It was the Tamil Nadu batter's fourth failure in as many Tests.

Barring the 61 he made in his second Test against England at Old Trafford, Tamil Nadu batter's other scores are 0, 30, 0, 38 and 11. That the spotlight is on him, especially after Dhruv Jurel scored a maiden ton in Ahmedabad, and the presence of Devdutt Padikkal — Sudharsan's like-for-like choice — in the squad was evident during Wednesday's training session as the southpaw appeared lacking confidence at times. He played and missed a few deliveries, mistimed the ball on many occasions and even had his stumps uprooted by Mohammed Siraj.

For the second Test at the Feroz Shah Kotla, starting on Friday, Sudharsan's spot is seemingly safe. But with the South Africa series beckoning next month, there's no doubt he needs to make a big score considering the competition for places, and the fact that the Proteas are the current World Test Championship title holders. India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate reckoned Sudharsan is aware of the false start to his Test career but backed him to come good.

"I think he's under no illusion, and you can't hide away from the fact that you do fight for a spot in this environment," said Doeschate at the press conference on Wednesday. "You saw Karun Nair get four Test matches in England. There are a lot of good players fighting up the hill, so whoever has a position on that spot, Sai just needs to focus on believing in himself. We've obviously got a lot of belief in him to give that number three spot.

"He's playing pretty nicely, probably a tactical mistake the other day, which he'll be aware of playing back to one early in the innings. We just want him to know that we know he's good enough, and now he has to find a better spot rather than showing the rest of the country and the rest of the team that he's good enough to hold that spot. There's certainly no panic or worry, particularly in a winning team. I'm sure he does feel like he's got our backing, like he's got the captain's backing and the coach's and staff's backing. I feel he'll deliver on his promise."

Gulati wears Asian heyball crown

BENGALURU, DHNS

India's Sundeep Gulati won the men's title at the second Asian Heyball Championships in Amman, Jordan, late on Tuesday following a superb display in the newest discipline in cue sports. It was a good week for the Indian cueists as Vidya Pillai, the reigning National champion, and the promising Anupama Ramachandran settled for the bronze medals in the women's event.

The 44-year-old Indian won a one-sided final against Iran's Mohammadali Pordel 7-2.

This was Gulati's maiden international gold medal and the Delhiite had barely had any trouble in clinching it.

"It feels great, a long-awaited moment for me actually," said Gulati. "This is my first-ever international gold medal, and my biggest-ever triumph." He had earlier won two international bronze medals in snooker.

Sundeep Gulati

In the women's category, Vidya went down 2-6 to Waratthanun Sukritthanes of Thailand, and Anupama lost to eventual champion Ganbat Gan Orkhon of Mongolia 1-6 in the other semifinal.

Results: Men: Final: Sundeep Gulati (Ind): 7 bt Mohammadali Pordel (Irn): 2.

Women: Final: Ganbat Gan Orkhon (Mgl): 4 bt Waratthanun Sukritthanes (Thai): 3.

Semis: Sukritthanes: 6 bt Vidya Pillai (Ind) 2; Orkhon: 6 bt Anupama Ramachandran (Ind): 1.

De Minaur, Rinderknech through to quarters

SHANGHAI, AFP: Australia's Alex de Minaur (**in pic**) cruised through to the Shanghai Masters quarterfinals on Wednesday, ousting Portugal's Nuno Borges 7-5, 6-2.

De Minaur is chasing his second title of the year and is, after Novak Djokovic, the highest-ranked player left standing after a string of high-profile exits.

France's Arthur Rinderknech reached his first Masters 1000 quarterfinal after beating Czech Jiri Lehecka 6-3, 7-6 (7/5).

Sabalenka battles

Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka battled hard on Wednesday to keep her unbeaten record in Wuhan intact, having to come from behind to beat Slovakia's Rebecca Sramkova 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

The World No. 1 started slowly in her first match since she clinched a fourth Grand Slam title at the US Open last month.

But the Belarusian found her power game in the final set to reach the Wuhan Open last 16, where she will face the 16th-seeded Russian Liudmila Samsonova.

Gauff cruises

Third seed Coco Gauff, a semi-finalist in Wuhan last year, booked her place in the last 16 with a smooth 6-1, 6-0 performance against Japanese qualifier Moyuka Uchijima.

In contrast, World No. 6 Jessica Pegula survived a "wild ride", needing seven match points and almost three hours to overcome fellow American Hailey Baptiste 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (8/6).

Eleventh-seeded Naomi Osaka was upset by unseeded Linda Noskova 7-6(2) 6-3.

India ODI side to leave for Aus in two batches

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Indian ODI squad will depart for Australia in two separate batches on October 15 from the national capital with logistics and ticket availability determining the final travel schedule.

India will play a three-match ODI series followed by a five-match T20I affair Down Under.

According to sources in the BCCI, one group of players will leave in the morning while the second batch is likely to fly out later in the evening, depending on the availability of business class tickets for the long-haul flight.

Former captains Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, along with newly appointed vice-captain Shreyas Iyer, are expected to join the rest of the Test squad members in New Delhi ahead of the team's departure.

India jrs cruise into quarters

GUWAHATI, PTI

India stormed into the quarterfinals of the team event at the BWF World Junior Badminton Championships for the Suhandinata Cup with a clinical win over UAE here on Wednesday.

In other ties, USA upset France while Japan got the better of top seeds Thailand to top their respective groups at the National Centre of Excellence here. While India defeated UAE 45-37, 45-34, Japan got the better of Thailand 45-42, 45-34 in Group A and the USA made it to the last eight stage with 45-43, 45-43 win over France in Group B.

The top teams in all eight groups will compete in the quarterfinals for the coveted trophy, while the others will fight in the classification rounds.

Other teams to top their respective groups include China (Group D) and Indonesia (Group F).

India, seeded second, had beaten Nepal and Sri Lanka in their earlier Group H clashes and went into the final round as the only unbeaten team in the group.

India's Tanvi Sharma in action against the UAE at the BWF World Junior Championships in Guwahati on Wednesday. BAI

Tharun wins, Lakshya out

Unheralded Indian Tharun Mannepalli kept alive the country's men's singles hopes at the Arctic Open, staging a thrilling comeback to upset world No. 14 Toma Junior Popov of France, even as Lakshya Sen suffered his 10th first-round exit of the year in Vantaa, Finland on Wednesday.

Mannepalli, ranked 46th, overcame a first-game loss to beat Popov 11-21, 21-11, 22-20 in a one-hour and eight-minute contest, saving four match points in the decider to pull off a remarkable win in the BWF Super 500 event.

Paris Olympics semifinalist Lakshya fell 21-15, 21-17 in 57 minutes to world No. 11 and fifth seed Kodai Naraoka of Japan.

IN BRIEF

Ashwini-Shikha win silver

Indian doubles duo of Ashwini K Bhat and Shikha Gautam went down fighting to France's Elsa Jacob and Flavie Vallet in the final of the Dutch Open on Sunday in 's-Hertogenbosch, reports DHNS.

The girls from Bengaluru won the opening game 21-13 before losing a close second game 19-21. The French pair took complete control of the third to seal the deal with a 21-10 scoreline for the Indian shuttlers to come home with a runners-up trophy.

K'taka cagers into semis

Karnataka girls' basketball team entered the semifinals of the Sub Junior National Basketball Championships in Dehradun on Wednesday, reports DHNS.

They defeated Chattisgarh 57-52 in the quarterfinals with Saanvi and Suhavvi scoring 16 points each while Shravya bagging eight points. Meanwhile, the state boys' team exited the title run with a 42-92 defeat to Uttar Pradesh in the quarters.

School v'ball from Oct 15

The 11th AGI State-Level Inter-School Volleyball Tournament will be held on October 15 and 16 at the Ashok Public School Ground in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

The event will feature competitions for boys and girls across Under-10, U-12, U-14 and U-16 categories. For details contact Alok on 8277597118 or Eshappa on 9538365129.

Dahiya T-28 at WATC

Rakshit Dahiya carded an even-par 72 in testing conditions to finish as the best-placed Indian at tied 28th in the opening round of the World Amateur Team Championship (WATC) for the Eisenhower Trophy on Wednesday, reports PTI from Singapore.

Parthsarthi, Akansha win

Top seed Parthsarthi Arun Mundhe, Akansha Ghosh, and Riddhi Shinde continued their winning streak to reach the pre-quarterfinals of the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship in the girls' U-16 singles category on Wednesday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

La Liga match in Miami

Barcelona will face Villarreal in Miami in a La Liga match on December 20, the Spanish top flight said Wednesday, making it the first European league fixture to be played abroad, reports AFP from Barcelona.

Earlier this week, European football governing body UEFA said they opposed the idea of games being played overseas but would permit it on an exceptional basis, along with a Serie A match in Australia in February between AC Milan and Como.

Donald for DP World India

European Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald is set to tee it up for the first time since leading his side to historic back-to-back victories over the United States when he brings further star power to the USD 4 million DP World India Championship this October, reports PTI from New Delhi.

ON TV

CRICKET

Women's World Cup: India vs South Africa **(3 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

TENNIS

Shanghai Masters: Quarterfinals **(12:30 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Beth Mooney

Mooney ton propels Aus to big win over Pak

COLOMBO, PTI: Star batter Beth Mooney struck a magnificent hundred and led a remarkable Australian fightback along with tailender Alana King to set up a crushing 107-run win over Pakistan in their ICC World Cup match here on Wednesday.

Sent in to bat, defending champions Australia suffered a top-order batting collapse as they were reduced to 76/7 in the 22nd over with Pakistan spinners, led by Nashra Sandhu (3/37), wrecking havoc.

At one stage, it looked like the Australian innings would fold for less than 150, but Mooney (109 from 114 balls) resurrected their innings with her fifth ODI hundred and first World Cup ton.

She stitched a record 106 runs for the ninth wicket with King (51 not out off 49 balls) to lift Australia to 221 for 9.

After Mooney and King's heroics, Australian bowlers, led by Kim Garth (3/14), Annabel Sutherland (2/15) and Megan Schutt (2/25), dismissed Pakistan for 114 in 36.3 overs for their second win in the tournament.

Brief scores: Australia: 221/9 in 50 overs (Beth Mooney 109, Alana King 51 n.o.; Fatima Sana 2-49, Rameen Shamim 2-29, Nashra Sandhu 3-37) lt to Pakistan: 114 all out in 36.3 overs (Sidra Amin 35; Kim Grath 3-14, Megan Schutt 2-25, Annabel Sutherland 2-15). **Result:** Australia won by 107 runs. **PoM:** Beth Mooney.

CRICKET WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Focus on Indian top order

Harmanpreet & Co will take on Wolvaardt's South Africa today

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

India's top-order batters will have to shed their diffident ways against a rejuvenated South Africa to instil more momentum into their slow-brewing ICC Women's World Cup campaign here on Thursday.

A glance at the points table will show India's comfortable position with two wins from as many games.

But beneath that glossy exterior, India have a mounting worry in the lack of runs so far from talismanic Smriti Mandhana, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and the energetic Jemimah Rodrigues.

The troika faltered against Sri Lanka and Pakistan, forcing India to rely on the second line in Harleen Deol, Amanjot Kaur, Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma for the rescue act.

India were 124 for six against Lanka and 159 for five against Pakistan, and each of those situations could have been more perilous if the late order batters were not able to guts it out in the middle.

A repetition of the script will be disastrous against a more well-equipped side like South Africa, and India need a heftier contribution from their star triumvirate in this game.

India will hope for their star batter Smriti Mandhana to fire at the top against South Africa on Thursday. AFP

LIVE 3 PM, STAR SPORTS NETWORK

If the result does not go in India's favour, it will not only endanger their position on the points table, but will push them to a tighter corner against champions Australia on October 12.

Of course, the Indian management will see the positive side in the outings so far, winning without a major hand from its star batters and might perceive it as the presence of multiple match-winners.

But deep down, they will also accept the need for runs from Mandhana, Harmanpreet and Rodrigues that can be the difference between a good total and winning total against top sides like South Africa or Australia.

But on the other hand, the bowlers have delivered consistently so far for India.

However, they will have to be aware that the ACA-VDCA stadium pitch here might not offer a similar level of bite as the tracks in Guwahati and Colombo.

Deepti Sharma tops the wicket-takers' chart with six scalps, while she received splendid support from fellow spinners Sneh Rana and Sree Charani, and pacer Kranti Gaud, who have been quite impressive.

India will also be monitoring the recovery of pace-bowling all-rounder Amanjot Kaur, who missed the match against Pakistan with "illness", and, if fit, she will replace Renuka Singh Thakur in the eleven.

Amanjot also offers a very handy batting option down the order. India will require all their options ready against the Proteas women.

SA powered to a six-wicket win over New Zealand in their previous game to underline the recuperation from their shambolic 69 all out, and the resultant 10-wicket drubbing by England.

Centurion Tazmin Brits and dependable Sune Luus are back among runs, and they will expect skipper Laura Wolvaardt and veterans Marizanne Kapp and Anneke Bosch to join the party against India.

If their bowling unit consisting of Nonku Mlaba, Ayabonga Khaka, Kapp, Masabata Klaas and Chloe Tyron can summon all its experience, the Indian batting line-up will have an onerous task at hand.

India battle chaos before Singapore test

Veteran Chhetri returns to Jamil's squad for tricky tie

SINGAPORE, PTI

The build-up marred by several players missing the first half of the national camp, the Indian football team faces a tricky Singapore in a crucial AFC Asian Cup qualifying third round match here on Thursday.

Though the talisman Sunil Chhetri has returned to the team after he was rested for the CAFA Nations Cup in August-September, Khalid Jamil's side has trained together for barely a week for such an important match.

India are in the bottom of four-team Group C after having garnered a single point from their first two matches against Bangladesh (0-0) and Hong Kong (0-1). Singapore, on the other hand, are currently at the top of the group with four points from their two games.

Any slip-up on Thursday could jeopardise India's chances of making it to the main tournament in 2027, for which only the group winners will make the cut. Jamil had named 30 players for the national camp in Bengaluru which began on September 20 but 14 of them, including Chhetri, were not released by the clubs.

Later, most of the players joined the camp towards the end of September, meaning they were with the team for barely a week before their departure on Monday.

A helpless Jamil, who had just two defenders attending the camp in the first half, had urged the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and clubs to find a solution on the age old impasse.

Indian squad: Goalkeepers: Amrinder Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. **Defenders:** Anwar Ali, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, Muhammed Uvais, Pramveer, Rahul Bheke, Sandesh Jhingan. **Midfielders:** Brandon Fernandes, Danish Farooq Bhat, Deepak Tangri, Macarton Louis Nickson, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Nikhil Prabhu, Sahal Abdul Samad, Udanta Singh Kumam. **Forwards:** Farukh Choudhary, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Liston Colaco, Rahim Ali, Sunil Chhetri, Vikram Partap Singh.

India coach Khalid Jamil (centre) speaks with Indian players a training session ahead of their Asian Cup qualifier match against Singapore. AIFF

Power of Gold for feature

MYSURU SELECTIONS

Power Of Gold, from the stables of Darius Byramji and to be ridden by Akshay Kumar, is fancied to win the Chief Minister's Cup, the feature event of the Mysore races run over a mile at the races on Thursday.

First race starts at 2.30 pm.

1. Dupont Plate - (Div-II) - 1200M: Sea Of Adventure 1, Anushtubha 2, Abnegator 3.
2. Dupont Plate (Div-I) - 1200M: One Diamond 1, Magic Circle 2, Thewhisperquietly 3.
3. Gool & Soli Poonawalla Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Goddess Of War 1, Darrington 2, Valiant Stream 3.
4. Chief Minister's Cup - 1600M: Power Of Gold 1, Carter 2, Yukikaze 3.
5. Hotel R R R Trophy - 1200M: Ocean 1, Sherouk 2, Grace 3.
6. Coorg Plate - 1100M: Agera 1, Vayu 2, Lady Invictus 3.
Day's best: Goddess Of War. **Jackpot**: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **I treble**: 1, 2 & 3. **II treble**: 4, 5 & 6.

Indian women go down to Japan

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Indian women's water polo team ended their group campaign winless as they lost to Japan 10-25 in the Asian Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. India qualified for the quarterfinals irrespective of three consecutive defeats and a bottom-place finish in Group A as the group stages were only to decide seeding for the knockout stages.

The unranked hosts will face Group B toppers and World No. 15 China in the quarterfinals on Thursday. While beating China, who won all their group matches and scored 76 goals, is a tall ask, India may like to focus on the classification stages that start after.

India's Prachetha Rao (left) aims to make a pass while a Japanese player attempts to block during their group match on Wednesday.

The four semifinalists will automatically qualify for the next year's Asian Games. The knocked-out teams will have a shot at a top-six finish through the 5th-8th play-off matches.

India, who suffered lopsided defeats to Singapore and Uzbekistan earlier, have inspiration to take from the latest match as Kalautri Mitra scored a hat-trick while Kripa Ranichithra managed a brace. Bengaluru teenager Prachetha Rao scored a consolation goal too.

However, World No. 11 Japan, who fielded their junior team for the competition, were in a class of their own with skipper Shoka Fukuda scoring five goals while Maho Kobayashi and Nina Lowrey contributed four goals each. Kanade Shibata became the fourth Japanese to manage a hat-trick in the goalfest.

Results: Men: Thailand: 4 lt to Kazakhstan: 22; Singapore: 16 lt to Japan: 24; Uzbekistan: 17 lt to Hong Kong (China): 22.
Women: Uzbekistan: 16 lt to Singapore: 17; Thailand: 5 lt to China: 25; India: 10 lt to Japan: 25.

Thangaraja takes lead at halfway mark

BENGALURU, DHNS: The inform N Thangaraja, with a winner and a runner-up finish in the last three PGTI events, continued his good run with a six-under 65 to move into the halfway lead on day two of the Bengaluru Open at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) here on Wednesday.

The Sri Lankan, who was overnight tied third and one off the lead, carded 65 following his 66 to tota 11-under 131 after 36 holes to hold a one-shot advantage at the top of the leaderboard.

Viraj Madappa (65-67) of Kolkata, the overnight joint leader, fired a 67 in round two to slip one spot to second place at 10-under 132.

Gurugram's Manu Gandas shot a tournament low of 63 to climb 26 spots to third place at nine-under 133.

N Thangaraja

Nepal's Subash Tamang, the round one joint leader, dropped down to tied fourth at eight-under 134 as a result of his 69 on Wednesday. Subash was joined by Greater Noida's Saptak Talwar (68) in tied fourth.

Reigning champion Abhinav Lohan, who hails from the DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurugram, ended day two in tied 11th place at five-under 137.

The highest-placed among the Bengaluru-based players were Manoj S and Mari Muthu R, both of whom occupied tied-13th position at four-under 138.

The cut came down at one-over 143. Fifty professionals and one amateur, Noida's Kanav Chauhan (140), made the cut.

Scores (after 36 holes): 131: N Thangaraja (66, 65); **132:** Viraj Madappa (65, 67); **133:** Manu Gandas (70, 63); **134:** Subash Tamang (65, 69), Saptak Talwar (66, 68).

Bowlers, Vrinda set up Karnataka win

BENGALURU. DHNS: Vrinda Dinesh struck a half-century while Niki Prasad remained unbeaten on 35 as Karnataka swatted aside Himachal by eight wickets in a BCCI Senior Women's T20 Trophy tournament in Gwalior on Wednesday.

Batting first, Himachal could muster only 108/8 in 20 overs with Monica Patel (2/16) and Tejashwini (2/12) getting amongst wickets. Karnataka, in reply, posted 111/2 in 19.1 overs for a comfortable win.

Brief scores (in Gwalior): Himachal Pradesh: 108/8 in 20 overs (SM Singh 37; Monica C Patel 2-16, BG Tejashwini 2-12) lt to Karnataka: 111/2 in 19.1 overs (Vrinda Dinesh 54, Niki Prasad 35 n.o.).

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